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PART XLI.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

87

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART XLI.

No. 1.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 27. Political.)

Erzeroum, August 16, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of despatches No. 1, Political, of the 31st July, and No. 2, Political, of the 2nd August, received by me yesterday from Captain Clayton, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul for Van. The first refers to the probable settlement in the Mush district of 1,200 families of Mahommedan refugees from the Kars, Ardahan, and Batoum districts.

Admitting the settlement of these refugees to be a necessary evil, which cannot well be avoided, I fully concur in Captain Clayton's remarks, that the speedy organization of an effective gendarmerie, for the better protection of the Christian inhabitants, is most desirable. Your Lordship is, however, aware that the project of the Imperial Commissioners for the establishment of an improved gendarmerie for the Vilayet of Erzeroum has been refused sanction by the Sublime Porte, on account of the proposed increased expenditure. The organization of a gendarmerie for the Mush Sandjak (which is in the Van Vilayet) has not yet been taken into consideration, and nothing can be done in the matter until the Imperial Commission proceeds to Van.

Captain Clayton's second despatch affords a melancholy picture of the state of affairs in the Mush district, and confirms in many points the statements contained in a paper that was handed me a few days ago by the Archbishop of Mush, a translation of which I hope to send to your Lordship by the next mail.

I learn that the Armenian demonstration at Mush, described by Captain Clayton, was organized in consequence of instructions sent by the leading Armenians here. I also learn from a reliable source that it had been intended that the principal Turkish residents of Mush should have gone to meet Captain Clayton, with a whole battalion of soldiers, and that the troops were actually under arms for the purpose; but when the movements of the Armenians became known the order was countermanded, and the Colonel only, with a cavalry escort, went to meet the Vice-Consul.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
Consul for Kurdistan.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Müsh, July 31, 1879.

Sir,

IN accordance with your instructions I have the honour to report what I have been able to learn with respect to the proposed settlement of Mussulman refugees in this district.

This morning I received a visit from the Vekil of the Mutessarif of the district, and on inquiry he informed me that an official communication had been received from Constantinople to the effect that between 3,000 and 4,000 families of refugees from the neighbourhood of Kars and Batoum were to be located in the mutessariflik. On the receipt of this communication protests were sent to Constantinople and Erzeroum, urging that it would be impossible to receive so many refugees, but that 1,200 families might be accommodated. The Vekil believed that this number of families could be located in the district without serious inconvenience. Nothing was known of any intention of sending refugees from Europe.

After the Vekil had taken his leave the Bishop's vicar, and other Armenian Notables who had been present during the conversation, expressed to me the great objection they had to the reception of even the reduced number of refugees, and said that they had sent a protest to Erzeroum on the subject. They stated that they had no objection to the settlement of refugees in the town of Mush, but that if they were located in the country villages great injury would certainly follow to the Armenian peasantry.

On my suggesting that if only a few refugees were settled in each village no harm could ensue, the reply was made that, as the Turkish officials invariably took the part of the Mussulman in any dispute between a Mussulman and a Christian, the presence of even one family of refugees in a village would cause injury and oppression to the Armenian inhabitants, as the refugees, poor and desperate, would be sure to levy contributions from the Christians, and the latter would not be able to obtain any redress from the authorities, and, in case of resistance to unlawful demands, would be sure to be considered in the wrong, and punished accordingly.

Even if this be an exaggerated picture of the condition of affairs in this part of the country, it shows clearly the general state of feeling of the Armenian population, and points to the necessity for the adoption of measures to give confidence in the impartial justice of the Administration, and for the organization of a gendarmerie that shall be effective to prevent the oppression of one part of the population by another part.

I propose to address to you another despatch on the general condition of the mutessariflik when I have received certain information which has been promised me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. CLAYTON, *Captain,*
British Vice-Consul, Van.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Mush, August 2, 1879.

Sir,

IN my despatch No. 1, Political, I mentioned that I was awaiting certain information. This information was to take the form of a Report from the Armenians of the grievances under which they have been suffering. I have not yet received this Report; but as an opportunity of sending letters by a traveller, who will start to-morrow for Erzeroum, offers itself, I think it desirable to inform you at once of what I have been able to learn respecting the condition of the mutessariflik without waiting for the Report, which I will forward as soon as another opportunity offers.

After parting with you on the 28th July I reached Chynys the same afternoon, and was hospitably received by Hajji Bey. The Kaïmakam, Iskender Bey, was also very attentive, and accompanied me for an hour on my journey next morning. At Chynys there are between 300 and 400 Armenians, and I was informed by a deputation of Armenians that in the district there are twenty-five Armenian villages, with a population of 20,000 souls. The deputation made no complaint of their condition.

On the 29th July I reached Iscliarbuhur, a prosperous Circassian village, and in the evening arrived an officer and five zaptiehs sent from Mush to meet me.

The next day I was met at a village, four hours from Mush, by a deputation of Armenians, with a formal invitation to stay at the Bishop's house; such an invitation you are aware I had already accepted from the Bishop himself when I saw him at Erzeroum. About an hour from Mush I was met by the Bishop's vicar and a considerable number of Armenian Notables, and a little further on by a Colonel with a mounted escort. On nearing the city the greater part of the Armenian population came out to meet me, and accompanied me to the Bishop's house, the children of the different schools forming a procession in their ecclesiastical garments. I was not at all aware that such a reception was contemplated, and regret it should have taken place, as being likely to embitter the bad feeling already existing between the Moslems and the Christians. Indeed, some of the latter have expressed great apprehension of what may happen after my departure. But they said they had been suffering so long and so severely that, on the prospect appearing to open to them of brighter days to come, their hearts were so full that they could not restrain their long pent-up feelings.

Indeed, there appears to be no room to doubt the exceeding misrule, oppression, and misery which the Armenians of this part of the country have had to undergo. Far from the capital and from centres like Erzeroum and Van, and with no regular postal communication, the evil-disposed have been able to act as they pleased without check or hindrance, and there is no European element to exert any influence for good. I have been already told of crimes and misdeeds enough to fill a book, and I have reason to believe in the truth of the greater part of what I have heard. Some of the worst cases were related to me by an European surgeon in the Turkish service as having come under his personal observation, and I have myself been able to notice the abject terror with which the Christian population regards the Kurds, the Turks, and the authorities.

It is barely three weeks since a noted Kurdish Chief, Mirza Bey, beat nearly to death the headman of an Armenian village because he had been recently elected without his sanction. Yet Mirza Bey walks freely about the town, and is an honoured visitor in the Serai and Medjliss.

But, unfortunately, it is not only the Kurds who misbehave; officers and men of the regular troops and zaptiehs continually make irregular demands on the villagers, and beat and maltreat them if they are unable to satisfy their demands.

Justice also, as a rule, miscarries. A caravan of Armenians returning to Van from Constantinople with their earnings were attacked last year by Kurds near Boulanik, and robbed of £ T. 6,000. They have endeavoured to obtain redress, the robbers being well known, and have been able to obtain an order from Van for the arrest and punishment of the offenders, but the latter, with so much money at their command, have hitherto escaped scot-free, though one of them has been recently rearrested, and is now in prison here.

Only a few days ago an Armenian set out for Erzeroum with letters for the Bishop of Mush containing reports of grievances. His body was found murdered near Iscliarbuhur; but when his son went to fetch it, it had in the meantime disappeared with the letters.

Even darker crimes of lust and brutality are also spoken of as of not unfrequent occurrence.

The Vekil of the Mutessarif, and other officials with whom I have spoken, express the best sentiments and intentions, and I hope are sincere in their professions. The Vekil I believe to be a man of good intentions, but he is only here temporarily, and the Mussulman population is extremely fanatical, and corruption seems to reign supreme.

It would certainly be of the greatest advantage if some European influence could be permanently introduced here, and I therefore hear with satisfaction that there is some possibility of a Russian Consular officer being posted here.

I inclose an address which was read to me on my arrival; it is a curiosity, as exhibiting a remarkable confusion of person between Her Majesty herself and her Vice-Consul, but it gives an idea of the feelings of the Armenian people. I fully believe that the latter is suffering in this part of the country the most grievous oppression and wrong.

Their main causes of complaint are: that they have to pay taxes both to the Kurds and to the Government; abuses in the collection of the Government taxes; the maltreatment they suffer from Kurds, Turks, soldiery, and zaptiehs; and the

impunity with which any Moslem can commit any sort of crime or wrong against them.

I have seen no symptom of foreign intrigue; but the Armenians have lately become much more acquainted than formerly with the condition of European nations, and with the idea of liberty and equality, and are beginning to find their present position insupportable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. CLAYTON, *Captain*,
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Van

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Address at Mush.

Le 31 *Juillet*, 1879.

Excellence,

C'EST le cœur pénétré de douleur qui parle et celui de ce peuple vient avec l'assurance du profond respect, avec ma voix, saluer votre venue. C'est une fierté pour nous.

Depuis longtemps les scélératesses, les oppressions, les désastres ont étouffé notre nation; six siècles sont passés et encore il mugit sous le joug de ce tyran. La félicité ne règne dans cette patrie; partout le sanglot, la larme et les misérables.

Mon arme danse sur mes lèvres puisque les bienfaits que reçoivent chaque jour de votre Altesse Royale les malheureux qui implorent votre bienfaisance, prouvent que vous êtes le protecteur des infortunés.

Combien il m'est doux maintenant emprunter une langue céleste, où je vois briller la lumière éclipsée de nos jours. Ce peuple ne verra plus les heures et les moments qui l'enfermaient jusqu'à présent dans un tombeau triste et silencieux. Il embrassera l'ombre de la liberté que les libres nations et votre Majesté vont lui offrir, comme j'espère. La mer, l'état était toute émue, mais elle sera calme et paisible désormais.

Que ces lieux sacrés où vous vous promenez en déchirant leur voile triste de la misère chantent la venue de votre Majesté et la liberté, que comme nous espérons, vous allez répandre partout. Notre espoir est en vous.

Agréez, illustre Maitre, aimer cette nation qui vous adore, et la sauver de ses misères.

(Signé) JEAN.

No. 2.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 392.)
St. Petersburgh, August 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I REGRET to have to report that M. de Giers, not having yet received the Protocols of the Conferences respecting the disputed point near Karaourgan, is still unable to discuss that question with me.

Having proposed, however, to General Miliutine that his Excellency and I should go into the matter, he has suggested that the British Commissioner should take part in the labours of the Commission from the point at which the divergence between the two maps occurs to the north of Karaourgan, on the understanding that he prosecutes his task in a conciliatory spirit, and consents to fix the line in such a manner that the door between Karaourgan and Vezin shall be closed as effectually on one side as on the other.

The object which General Miliutine has probably in view is to prevent the turn eastward in the direction of Medingert being quite as sharp as is required by the terms of the Treaty of Berlin. His Excellency, however, considers that it will be difficult to settle this question elsewhere than on the spot.

It would, however, perhaps facilitate an arrangement if a tentative frontier were laid down on the 1 verst map by the military authorities in London. If traced in an equitable manner such a line might be accepted here, and the map thus agreed upon could be sent us an instruction to the Commission for their general guidance, subject to such modifications as the local necessities of the ground might suggest to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 3.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 398.)
St. Petersburgh, August 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a translation, by Mr. Michell, respecting the dispatch of ammunition from Russia to Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Dispatch of Ammunition from Russia to Bulgaria.

(Translation.)

THE "Russki Pravda" of the $\frac{18th}{30th}$ August, 1879, publishes information received from Odessa, to the effect that the cruizer "Russia" will in a few days leave that place for some Bulgarian port with 35,000 poods of cartridges for rifles of the Krynka pattern; 40,000 poods of the same cartridges, it states, have already been sent, and 26,000 poods more are expected at Odessa for further shipment. The total number of cartridges to be sent to Bulgaria amounts to 47,000,000. Such a quantity of cartridges, says the "Russki Pravda," is indispensable, owing to the fact that all the rifles of the Krynka pattern, with which the late Russian active army was furnished, have been given by the Russian Government to the Bulgarian militia.

No. 4.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 404.)
St. Petersburgh, August 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that M. de Giers has at last received the Protocols of the Asiatic Delimitation Conferences at Constantinople. He informed me, however, that the record of those proceedings had greatly irritated General Miliutine, that the question could not be allowed to rest where it was, and that a thorough investigation must take place into the disputed matters of fact.

Unfortunately I shall not have an opportunity of seeing General Miliutine before he leaves with the Emperor to-morrow, and I fear that in his present state of mind he may prove less conciliatory and reasonable than I found him when we last conversed upon this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 5.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 405.)
St. Petersburgh, August 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Boerésco, the Roumanian Prime Minister, arrived here upon the 12th instant, and left upon the 17th instant.

His principal object in visiting St. Petersburgh has been, I apprehend, to induce the Russian Government to send a Minister Extraordinary to the Roumanian Court. With this request the Emperor has failed to comply at present, on the ground that such a proceeding might excite the jealousy of other Powers. M. de Giers, upon his part, suggested that, were this mark of Russia's confidence and favour to be given, she would naturally expect that the Roumanian Administration, upon its part, would adopt a friendly attitude in regard to the questions in contention between the two Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 6.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 1.)

(No. 407.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I showed M. de Giers the way bill forwarded to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 455 of the 16th instant. I called M. de Giers' special attention to the proofs borne on the face of the document of the cartridges for whose conveyance it vouched belonging to the Imperial army.

At the same time, I expressed to M. de Giers your Lordship's satisfaction with the character of his recent communication to Prince Labanoff upon the subject of these cartridges.

M. de Giers informed me that he had again reiterated these instructions to Prince Labanoff, and that Prince Labanoff had, in reply, expressed his great satisfaction with M. de Giers' despatch, as it put him in a position to take steps to put an end to such irregular proceedings.

M. de Giers hinted to me that General Stolipine and Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff having arrived at St. Petersburgh, he found himself exposed to a certain amount of recrimination on their part, on account of his endeavours to counteract the effect of their over-patriotic zeal.

I beg to re-enclose the document forwarded by Mr. Michell.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 7.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 1.)

(No. 411.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 27, 1879.

My Lord,

IN accordance with your Lordship's instructions as conveyed to me in your despatch No. 446 of the 19th instant, I called M. de Giers' attention to the confusion which existed as to the views of the Russian Government in regard to the Montenegrin delimitation.

M. de Giers readily admitted that a great deal of confusion had supervened in this matter, and that the eventual proposal which he was now about to suggest to the Emperor was as follows, namely, that the Commission should lay down upon a map the line of frontier it was disposed to recommend, together with the alternative lines suggested by its dissentient members; that after this operation had been completed, the map in question should be referred either to the European Governments or their Ambassadors at Constantinople; and that a majority of voices should determine the disputed points.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 8.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 1.)

(No. 413.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 27, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that, in consequence of what fell from M. de Giers, I endeavoured to see General Miliutine yesterday, but failed, as he was not in St. Petersburg. I wrote him a letter, however, suggesting that he should lay down upon the Versk map the line which, in his opinion, the frontier in the neighbourhood of Karaourgan ought to follow, promising that I would submit it to the consideration of your Lordship and of the authorities at the War Office. General Miliutine has replied to me in a private note, couched in terms of great personal courtesy, but evincing a very different frame of mind from that in which I left him at Sarskoe. He observes that no compromise is any longer possible, and he desires that his suggestion,

which I communicated to you in my despatch No. 302 of the 21st instant, should be regarded as *non-avenue*.

The Russians will probably now endeavour to come to an understanding with the Turks as to the exact point at which the line of delimitation is to strike the parallel of Karaourgan. They will then contend that it is both west and "près," and that if it possesses those qualifications, the Treaty of Berlin does not entitle us to object to it.

It will be desirable, therefore, that Sir Henry Layard should prevent the Turkish Commissioners from abandoning the position they took up at the Conference, when they asserted that they had not left the ridge on which Colonel Clarke fixes his point.

I have been shown a map signed by the Turkish Commissioners, on which the line is represented as leaving the ridge and descending towards the valley. The sheet stops a little way short of the parallel of Karaourgan. On a separate sheet, which is not signed, the line is prolonged in the direction it has already taken across the river, a short distance up the opposite height. I am afraid that even the signed sheet does not altogether bear out the assertion of the Turkish Commissioners at the Conference, as on it the line undoubtedly has descended from the crest, and trends south-west instead of south.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

P.S.—As M. de Giers and General Miliutine have left St. Petersburgh for Livadia, nothing more can be done here towards a settlement of the dispute.

D.

No. 9.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, September* 1.)

Constantinople, le 30 *Août*, 1879.

(Télégraphique.)

NOS autorités de Janina nous informent que les nommés André Khantelmra et Dimitri Tovoni, ayant déserté l'armée Hellénique, sont venus avec une vingtaine de soldats Helléniques se réunir à la bande d'un certain Cotchonike, ancien déserteur lui-même, dans le but d'agiter nos populations des frontières. Ils espèrent ainsi pousser les habitants à se plaindre du manque de sécurité.

No. 10.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 1.)

(No. 610.) *Therapia, August* 31, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

AT a meeting of the Commissioners on the Greek question to-day, Safvet Pasha presented his Counter-Declaration. Greek Commissioners maintained that it shifted the basis of negotiations, but agreed to take action upon it, and to submit it to the consideration of their Government, promising to give its decision at the meeting on Thursday.

(Sent to Athens.)

No. 11.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 61.) *Foreign Office, September* 1, 1879, 4·35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YOURS No. 68. I approve of your proposed declaration about gymnastic societies.

No. 12.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 51.)

Foreign Office, September 1, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 68 of the 29th ultimo, stating that you propose to make a declaration in the Commission, before its adjournment, on the subject of the illegal character of the Gymnastic Societies.

I have informed you by telegraph that I approve of your taking this step.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 13.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 46. Political.)

Aleih, August 16, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch, and its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the organization of the gendarmerie, the farming of the tithes for the present year, and on the general state of Syria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleih, August 16, 1879.

Sir,

IN my despatch of the 15th March last I had the honour to report to your Excellency the proposal of Midhat Pasha to form a corps of gendarmerie for the Vilayet of Syria, composed of men recruited from amongst Mussulmans and Christians alike, and I have now the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of the Regulations published in the "Hadicat el Akhbar," defining the duties of this new force, which, however, as far as I can learn, is not yet completely organized in all the districts of the vilayet.

The most significant part of this new organization of the police in Syria is the fact that it is an attempt to remedy the evils of centralization under which Syria, in common with the rest of Turkey, has so long suffered, by the introduction of local institutions.

The farming of the tithes of Syria for the current year has been most successfully carried out. I have not, however, received complete information as to the result of this operation for the whole of the vilayet, but for certain districts, amounting to about one-fifth of the whole, from which I have received reports, the farming of the tithes appears to have produced approximately £T. 92,680 against £T. 61,500 for the year 1878, showing for these districts an increase of about 50 per cent. compared with last year. As I am informed that similar results have been obtained throughout the vilayet, and as the tithes were farmed last year for £T. 180,000, the revenue from this source will amount for the current year to about £T. 270,000, or an increase of about £T. 90,000, notwithstanding that the harvest in general was about 30 per cent. below that of average years, and fully that below the harvest of last year.

The causes of the partial failure of the crops were the paucity of the rainfall, which was not more than half the average, the invasion of locusts, and the existence of cattle plague, which in certain districts carried off an immense number of oxen employed to till the soil.

The great increase in the price obtained from the tithes-farmers was therefore due not to the increased prosperity of the country, but to the manner in which the

operation of disposing of the tithes was carried out, under the direction of his Highness the Governor-General.

Hitherto it has been the custom to sell the tithes of whole districts to those who make the farming of the revenue a profession, and who are all more or less in collusion with the employés of the Government. In fact, the latter not unfrequently undertake, under another name, the farming of the tithes themselves. When the tax-farmers acquired the tithes of a district, for which they are responsible to the Imperial Treasury, they divided the district into smaller ones, and sub-let them, of course at a profit, to other speculators, who in their turn sub-let the different villages to those who actually collected the tithes in kind from the cultivators. These of course enjoyed the aid and protection of the authorities in collecting their dues, and as a rule expressed from the poor peasants at least double what they are entitled to, and frequently a great deal more.

With a view to put an end to these abuses, and at the same time to increase the revenue, Midhat Pasha divided the districts into smaller ones, and even permitted the inhabitants of separate villages or small districts, where they could offer sufficient guarantees for payment, to bid for their own tithes, which they were most anxious to do in order to get rid of their worst enemies, the professional tax-farmers; but these latter, fearing that this lucrative trade might be lost to them, bid against the inhabitants, and by this means so enhanced the prices, that in very few instances could the villagers succeed in having adjudicated to themselves their own tithes; those who did have made anything but a good bargain, while the greater part of the tithes were adjudicated to the old class of farmers, who hope to recoup themselves, to a certain extent, by bringing greater pressure to bear upon the agriculturists this year, an operation which will both fill their pockets and act as a powerful deterrent to prevent the villagers from bidding in future years, when they anticipate obtaining the adjudication at greatly reduced prices.

In this way the notorious Yussef el Mamlouk, whose oppressions in collecting the tithes of the district of Acre I had the honour to report to your Excellency in my despatch of the 15th September last, has succeeded in having adjudicated to himself the tithes of the districts of Sidon and Merj Ayoun, although I took upon myself to remonstrate both with the Vali and the Mutessarif against allowing this man to have anything to do with the collection of tithes; but as he appears to have been the highest bidder they were adjudicated to him, to the great dissatisfaction of the inhabitants of that part of the country, who know, from past experience, that they have neither pity to expect from him, nor justice from the Tribunals or authorities, as they last year acted merely as his tools and accomplices.

Thus it will be seen that the increased revenue is not the result of any increase of prosperity in the country, but was obtained by playing off one class of speculators against another, by which the Treasury has largely benefited, though I doubt whether a benefit procured by such practices is likely to continue in future years.

Recently his Highness Midhat Pasha has made several judicial and administrative appointments, for the former of which he has selected both Mussulmans and Christians, and not much exception can be taken to the persons appointed, although some of them do not bear the best of reputations. It is, however, my duty to draw your Excellency's attention to one of these administrative appointments, which has created a considerable sensation throughout Syria, and which I cannot but consider open to the very gravest objections.

In my despatch of the 15th March last I mentioned how desirable it was that the districts of Lattakia and Gebele should be separated from Tripoli, and erected into a separate Mutessarillik. This has now been done, and a certain Ahmet Effendi Salih has been appointed Mutessarif, and proceeded last week to Lattakia to take possession of his new post. This individual appears to have been implicated in the events of 1860, and he was, in consequence, sentenced to imprisonment in a fortress and perpetual deprivation of rank, and exclusion from the public service. In this sentence all the members of the International Commission concurred with one exception, while three of them were even of opinion that the sentence should be aggravated, the French Commissioner opining for capital punishment. On pp. 309 and 508 of the "Correspondence relating to the Affairs of Syria, 1860-61," this man's name figures in the list of the condemned, and he is also mentioned in other places in the said Correspondence.

However desirable it may be, after the lapse of so many years, to let what has passed be ignored, still I cannot help thinking that the appointment of Ahmet Effendi by Midhat Pasha to so important a post as that of Mutessarif in Syria, where his antecedents are so well known, is, to say the least, highly injudicious, and has had the

effect of greatly damaging the popularity of his Highness, which has for some time past been on the wane, owing greatly to the encouragement and protection he has extended to men of more than doubtful character. I regret, however, to say that the Pasha appears to have more confidence in men of this class, who promise reformation, than in men who are distinguished for their probity and devotion to the public service.

With regard to the general condition of the country, I regret to say that I can hardly do otherwise than endorse, for the rest of Syria, the opinion which Mr. Consul Moore so ably expresses with regard to Palestine in his despatch of the 30th ultimo to your Excellency, of which he has transmitted to me a copy. The old abuses are as rife as ever; the burdens which weigh down the population grow heavier every year, while the power to bear them is decreasing; and the new era which it was hoped would be inaugurated with the advent of his Highness Midhat Pasha seems as remote as ever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Extract from the "Hadikat el Akhbar."

Traduction d'un Règlement Supplémentaire promulgué par le Vilayet de Syrie sur les attributions des Agents de Police.

ARTICLE 1er. Le Bureau Central de la Police à Damas est installé dans l'ancien local de la typographie, près le conak du vilayet. Ce local se compose d'une salle, d'un cabinet de greffe, et de plusieurs chambres pour le logement des agents.

Le dit bureau sera ouvert nuit et jour; il doit s'y trouver toujours et à tour de rôle, un youzbachi, un lieutenant, ou un tchaouiche; deux à trois agents de police doivent aussi s'y trouver à tour de rôle.

Art. 2. La ville de Damas sera divisée en trois cercles, en outre du cercle du Bureau Central. Dans chacun de ces cercles il s'y trouvera un sergent, quatre agents de police, et un corps de garde ("kavakol") à désigner.

La ville devant être divisée ainsi en quatre cercles de police, y compris le Bureau Central, dont les limites respectives seront fixées, l'officier et les agents de police de chaque bureau sont tenus responsables de tout ce qui pourrait se commettre dans leur rayon respectif. Ainsi, un agent de police doit circuler, le jour et à tour le rôle, dans le cercle auquel il est attaché, et la nuit un agent doit également faire la ronde avec l'escouade de gendarmes, en remplissant les devoirs qui lui incombent de par le règlement.

Art. 3. En outre du registre où seront inscrits les effets de la brigade, les noms et prénoms des officiers et des agents, leurs pensions et leurs fournitures militaires, il devra être tenu aussi trois registres pour y noter tous les faits qui ont trait à leurs attributions civiles.

Un de ces registres sera affecté aux criminels et aux coupables. En cas où il y aurait nécessité d'arrêter un individu quelconque par ordre de l'autorité, inscription doit être faite dans ce registre de la cause de sa détention, du jour, de l'heure, et du lieu où elle s'est faite, le nom de l'agent qui l'a opérée, ainsi que les nom, prénoms, traits, physionomie, profession, et pays du détenu. Dans le cas où le détenu serait coupable d'un simple délit et passible, après interrogatoire, d'une amende à prononcer par le Gouvernement, ou d'un emprisonnement de quelques jours n'excédant pas le degré prévu pour les peines applicables par la police, sur ordre du Chef de l'Administration et à la requête de l'officier supérieur de la gendarmerie, et en cas de la mise en liberté du détenu, le procès-verbal rédigé à cet effet sera conservé séparément et son résumé inséré dans le dit registre. Dans le cas où la mise en liberté du détenu aurait été faite à la suite de son innocence, mention doit en être faite sur la colonne réservée aux observations avec la date du référé de l'affaire au Tribunal compétent.

Si le détenu possède des sommes ou des valeurs qui lui auraient été retirées provisoirement et gardées en dépôt, une déclaration spécifique doit lui être remise, en en insérant la copie exacte dans la colonne des observations.

Le deuxième registre servira à enregistrer les rapports des bureaux des cercles sur les incidents du jour, quels qu'ils soient, soumis au Bureau Central. Il sera tenu une page pour chaque jour séparément, et dans laquelle on notera tous les faits qui se seraient passés durant les vingt-quatre heures; on écrira, par exemple, que ce jour-là une incendie a éclaté sur tel point; que tant de constructions ont brûlé, que telle compagnie de pompiers a bien rempli son service ou non; que tel crime a été commis dans tel endroit; qu'un tel événement extraordinaire a eu lieu, et ainsi de suite, très-succinctement. Dans ce registre devront être notés aussi, jour par jour, les noms des voyageurs qui arrivent ou partent, et dont il serait nécessaire de connaître la condition, et, particulièrement, des sujets étrangers, avec désignation du lieu de leur provenance ou celui de leur partance, conformément aux renseignements fournis par les maîtres de khans et d'hôtels et recueillis par les agents de police.

Le troisième registre doit servir à noter les nom, prénoms des détenus, condamnés ou non, la spécification de leurs crimes et délits, ainsi que les noms des prévenus non arrêtés et placés sous la surveillance de la police, et ceux des personnes jouissant de mauvais antécédents et réputés par leurs méfaits, tout en faisant mention dans la colonne des observations des faits qui pèsent à leur charge.

En outre, chaque bureau de police doit posséder un registre pour noter les incidents du jour.

Art. 4. Tout agent de police doit porter sur lui un calepin avec un crayon pour y noter tous les faits prévus par le règlement et par ces dispositions supplémentaires. Il aura soin de les inscrire ensuite dans le journal du jour, et chaque matin le bureau de cercle dressera, s'il y a incidents ou non, son rapport que le tchaouich signera et enverra, à 1 heure à la Turque, au Bureau Central par un gendarme. Un rapport spécial sera dressé et transmis immédiatement au Bureau Central dans le cas où un incident extraordinaire se produirait durant les vingt-quatre heures.

Art. 5. Les agents de police étant chargés de veiller au bon ordre dans les cercles où ils sont attachés, et d'empêcher toute contravention aux règlements, conformément aux instructions dont ils sont munis, ils sont autorisés aussi de saisir et de faire arrêter par la gendarmerie et envoyer au Bureau Central tout coupable pris en flagrant délit de blessures, voies de fait, vol, ou violence. Ils doivent soigneusement éviter d'injurier les coupables et les délinquants, non moins les maltraiter, et il leur est interdit aussi de faire cas d'un petit incident: par exemple, deux personnes venant à se quereller, l'agent de police s'efforcera de les réconcilier sans tenter de les arrêter, à moins que l'un d'eux ne se porte à de voies de fait sur l'autre et le blesse.

Aussi, ne peut être arrêté aucun individu qui ne se serait pas rendu coupable d'un crime et dont la conduite serait en seule contravention avec les règlements municipaux. Les agents de police se borneront à lui faire des observations et des avertissements, et dans le cas où cet individu persisterait dans la ligne de conduite, un rapport devra être adressé au Bureau Central.

Art. 6. Les agents de police porteront un cordon rouge, signe distinctif, soit dans les bureaux où ils fonctionnement à tour de rôle, soit en circulant dans les rues. Le port du cordon leur est obligatoire dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions. L'agent de police dispensé de service, par tour de rôle ou occupé par une affaire personnelle, ne saurait porter le cordon, mais il le déposera dans son bureau. Entre autres conditions importantes exigées des officiers et des agents de police, figurent celles d'avoir une mine extrêmement propre, des bons procédés avec le monde, de ne s'asseoir ailleurs que dans leurs bureaux, et de prendre soin de s'enquérir minutieusement des faits dont ils pourraient s'apercevoir en faisant la ronde. Il leur est interdit, durant l'exercice de leurs fonctions, c'est-à-dire quand ils portent le cordon, de fumer dans les rues, de pénétrer dans un café pour s'y attabler, et de trafiquer avec personne, même pour leurs propres vêtements.

Art. 7. Un agent de police assistera à l'interrogatoire des criminels et des coupables dans la Chambre de Première Instance. Il veillera à ce que l'interrogatoire se fasse dans la voie requise. En cas de besoin, il pourra y concourir. Si dans le cours de l'interrogatoire il était nécessaire de mander quelqu'un, de déplacer un prévenu, ou de faire une confrontation, la tâche en sera laissée à l'agent de police, dont la signature devra être apposée au bas du procès-verbal de l'interrogatoire.

Art. 8. Un youzebachi, un lieutenant, ou l'Emin-Boulouk fera, chaque jour, une tournée dans les cercles pour inspecter les agents qui s'y trouvent employés, et pour s'assurer de la manière dont ils s'acquittent de leur service.

Les nouvelles dispositions ou instructions qu'il y aurait lieu de donner à la police, le seront par ordre du vilayet et mises en vigueur.

Art. 9. Il est permis d'employer les agents et officiers de police à des enquêtes secrètes. L'agent qui en sera chargé peut, sur ordre de l'officier supérieur, se déguiser; mais ces agents sont tenus de prêter serment qu'ils ne diront que la vérité.

Ces dispositions ont été rédigées et promulguées par le vilayet; toute contravention sera punie.

Le 29 Avril, 1296.

No. 14.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 746.) *Therapia, August* 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Lieutenant Chermside, forwarding a map which he has made of the district of Zeitoun.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, August 6, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, a sketch map of the district of Zeitoun. Should your Excellency desire to send it home, I will forward another copy, which I am at present retaining, instead of forwarding, as I intended, as it may be of use here. I regret that the copy forwarded should be somewhat blurred and damaged, and the drawing coarse; it consists of the original sheets, damaged owing to the accident of all my baggage falling into the water; unfortunately, the fair copy I had almost completed suffered much more.

Your Excellency will readily perceive the mountainous nature of the Zeitoun district. The map is illustrative of my despatches Nos. 9 and 11. The position of the rich lands near the great plain, consisting of the districts of Toubak, Endjik, Essendere, Fendek, Seghleyen, &c., is indicated on the map, and it is evident of what importance their loss must have been to the Zeitounlis.

A is the side of the barrack, now, I understand, completed.

B, C, D, E, are the approximate sites indicated in my despatch No. 9 for the establishment of blockhouses, which would close all the main avenues of egress from, and ingress to, the district.

Two of these (C and D) the Turks have actually commenced. I of course suggested them as a substitute for a barrack at Zeitoun. Detachments of the Zeitoun force will be posted in these, and the absurdity of the military position is evident. As outposts of a force at Zeitoun, they are a weakness rather than a strength. In case of trouble, these outlying detachments will have their lines of supply and communication with their main body running through the difficult gorges in the heart of the disturbed country. Zeitoun will be their base, at any rate, for ammunition and military stores. Situated on the confines of plains rich in cereals, &c., Marash and Albistan, both military centres, and Gyuksun, a town in the middle of the Circassian district, that should not be without a detachment of troops, naturally suggest themselves as the bases for the detachments, instead of a poverty-stricken little town away in the heart of a difficult mountainous district, ill-furnished with provisions or supplies of any sort.

The Commissioners have a tracing of my sketch, which has been forwarded to Constantinople, I believe to the Armenian Patriarch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 15.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 748.) *Therapia, August* 21, 1879.

My Lord,

A CRUEL and brutal murder was committed last week upon a gardener in the employment of some English residents at Kadi-keui, a suburb of Constantinople on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus, and upon his wife and two children, one of whom was an infant of a few months old. I inclose copy of a letter addressed to me on the subject by Acting Consul-General Wrench, with a statement signed by several highly respectable English gentlemen. It would appear that the crime was committed for the purpose of robbery, and that its authors came and went by sea. It is suspected that they were persons connected with the Arsenal, who had been able to move about at night in a boat belonging to the Government without exciting suspicion. Such crimes, however, have been of late very prevalent in the villages on the coast of the Sea of Marmora, in the neighbourhood of Kadi-keui, and in the Prince's Islands. They have been traced to a band of robbers, some of whom have been arrested, but have not yet been brought to trial. The insecurity to life and property in the villages on the European side of the Bosphorus, and in the neighbourhood, is such as has never been known before. Murders have constantly been committed in the Forest of Belgrade. A short time ago eight Greeks from a village in the Forest were assassinated under circumstances of great atrocity. It is stated that another village was attacked and plundered two days ago, seventeen persons, all Greeks, having been killed. These crimes are attributed to bands of deserters from the army, who have been joined by refugees. Several persons connected with the murder of the eight inhabitants of Ken-mur-keui have been arrested, but nothing more has been done, and I understand that some of them have been released. So many houses have been broken into at Buyukdéré, and so many persons assaulted and robbed, that the Russian and German Ambassadors and the Greek Minister, who reside there, informed the Porte that, unless proper means were at once taken for the protection of life and property, they should be compelled to land the crews of their "stationnaires" and organize a police force. This threat had the effect of inducing the Minister of Police to send a few additional zaptiehs to the village.

I sent Sir A. Sandison with Mr. Wrench's letter, and the statement it inclosed, to Safvet Pasha, with instructions to inform his Highness that unless he could give me an immediate assurance that effective measures would be taken for the protection of the lives and property of British subjects residing in Kadi-keui, I should direct the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" to anchor in front of the village, and to call a meeting of the British residents with a view of consulting with them on the subject. Safvet Pasha expressed his deep concern at what had occurred, and sent immediately for the Minister of Police, whom he interrogated in Sir A. Sandison's presence and to whom he gave peremptory orders to send, without delay, a sufficient body of police to Kadi-keui. The Minister pleaded that he was utterly powerless to do so. He had no money, he said, to pay the police force, a large part of which had already deserted, or had obtained their discharge as the period of their service had expired. He had applied over and over again to the Minister of Finance for money to pay the police, but had always received the same answer, that the Treasury being empty there was none to give. Under these circumstances he could no longer be responsible for the safety of the lives and property of the inhabitants of the capital and its suburbs.

Sir A. Sandison then suggested that as the police force was insufficient, recourse should be had to the regular troops, and that soldiers should be at once sent to Kadi-keui and other places for the protection of the population. Safvet Pasha expressed his approval of this suggestion, and addressed a letter to Ghazi Osman Pasha, the Seraskier, calling upon him to carry it out.

His Highness also wrote to the Minister of Finance requesting him to find the funds required for the payment and maintenance of a proper police.

The barbarous manner in which the Greeks from the villages in and near the forest of Belgrade were put to death, has led to the suspicion that they were murdered, not with the sole object of robbery, but from motives of revenge, by Mussulman refugees from Bulgaria or Roumelia, whose relations and fellow-countrymen have been the victims of Christian cruelty and persecution.

I inclose copy of the instructions I gave to Sir A. Sandison as to the language he was to hold to Safvet Pasha on the subject of the Kadi-keui crime. It appears that Ghazi Osman Pasha has visited the place himself and has sent some soldiers for the protection of the inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

Acting Consul-General Wrench to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, August 18, 1879.

Sir,

SEVERAL English gentlemen living at Moda, near Kadi-keui, have addressed to me a letter of which the inclosed is a copy.

The state of alarm produced on the minds of residents in the city and the Bosphorus villages by robberies of almost nightly occurrence has of late been interrupted by the commission of some fearful murders. None yet, however, have been on the scale of the tragedy reported in the accompanying letter. The British residents appeal to me to impress upon the Turkish authorities the urgent necessity of steps being taken to discover the murderers and also the adoption of the required means of protection for those lives and property. I can only forward this appeal to your Excellency and add to their testimony my own, to the effect that the police of town and country are now utterly insufficient for the protection of the public, and being in arrears of pay they naturely assist the dishonest from whom they expect reward, instead of the honest from whom they have nothing to hope.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. WRENCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

British Residents at Kadi-keui to Acting Consul-General Wrench.

Constantinople, August 18, 1879.

Sir,

WE beg to call your attention to the following statement. We are British residents at Moda, Kadi-keui, and some of us are lessees of a field adjoining our houses. In this field there is a small cottage in which resided a Greek gardener with his wife and two children (the latter 4 years and 6 months old respectively) whom we employed for the cultivation of the field and our gardens. This morning at 5:30 A.M. we discovered that the whole family had been brutally slaughtered after what appears to have been a disperate struggle on the part of the man. The motive was evidently robbery as the poor man's boxes were all broken into. Traces of blood and a small pool thereof on the bench showed conclusively that one of the assassins had been wounded and had escaped by sea. This fact and the finding of a sword bayonet in the room where the murders were committed should, unless the police show their usual criminal negligence, be sufficient to trace the murderers. As the property on which these frightful events took place was held by Englishmen, as the murdered man was in English employ, as we ourselves are in constant fear of a commission of similar acts on ourselves and on our families, as this is the fifth case of assassination which has taken place in our immediate neighbourhood, as many of our houses were broken into and plundered during the past 18 months, as, in reply to the official remonstrances made by the dragoman of Her Majesty's Consul-General, the Pasha of Scutari admitting the want of safety in our quarter, promised at once to station guards, which promise was not only not kept, but the guards previously stationed in the adjoining street were withdrawn, we feel it our bounden duty to protest against the criminal incapacity and *insouciance* of the Turkish police, and to request you in the most urgent manner not only to impress upon the Turkish authorities the urgent

necessity of steps being taken to discover the murderers, but also to adopt the urgent measures for protection of our lives and property in future.

We are, &c.
(Signed) JAMES LA FONTAINE.
ROSS TAYLOR.
J. W. WHITTALL.
SYDNEY LA FONTAINE.
WM. DAWSON.
EDWD. A. J. LA FONTAINE.
EDWD. BARFIELD.
FREDK. HEALD.
A. WERRY.
JAS. WALKER.
WM. KNOX GILCHRIST.

Inclosure 3 in No. 15.

Instructions to Sir A. Sandison.

COMMUNICATE to Safvet Pasha the letter from Mr. Wrench and that signed by British Merchants relating to the assassination of their gardener and his family at Kadi-keui. Tell his Highness that the insecurity to life and property is so great in that quarter that unless measures be taken for their protection I shall be compelled to direct Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" to anchor off Kadi-keui and to land men in case of necessity for the protection of British subjects. It will be for Her Majesty's Government when this and similar cases are reported to them, to consider what further measures may be necessary. In any other country of the world the Minister of Police, or the head of the department of police, who discharged his duties in so disgraceful a manner as to permit assassination and robberies on a large scale, committed by organized bands, would be at once dismissed from his post. Although some of the murderers of the eight unfortunate villagers of Belgrade have been arrested, nothing has been done to bring them to justice. Indeed, it is said that some of them have been set at liberty. It is surely not the wish of the Porte that Her Majesty's Government are to understand that Turkey is going back to the worst periods of its history and that Christians may now be murdered by Mussulmans with impunity.

Therapia, August 20, 1879.

No. 16.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 750.) *Therapia, August* 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed to me by Lieutenant Chermside containing comments upon the Report of the Commissioners sent by the Porte to inquire into the events of Zeitoun, and the conduct of the Turkish functionaries towards the Christian inhabitants of that district. Instead of communicating this despatch, as I have done in previous instances, to the Porte, I have thought it better to direct Lieutenant Chermside to give a copy, or the substance of it, to Said Pasha, who will shortly be at Zeitoun to open a fresh inquiry. Here it would probably remain an indefinite time in the Department of Foreign Affairs before it was sent to his Excellency, if it were sent to him at all.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Henderson on the same subject.

A. H. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 16.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, August 6, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's consideration, the following remarks on the extract of a Report inclosed in your Excellency's despatch of the 13th July.

My despatch of the 10th July will have somewhat anticipated the observations called for.

I had at that time, of course, no knowledge that the Report in question would be submitted to your Excellency, though my surmise that such a course was very possible has proved correct.

I cannot for a moment imagine, aware as I am of the enormous amount of correspondence that has passed between the Commission and the Porte, that this general and superficial Report contains the principal information they have received on Zeitoun matters.

Had I forwarded to your Excellency a Report so singularly devoid of detailed information as to the cause of the disturbances, the events that occurred, and the present condition of affairs, I cannot but suppose that I should have been considered to have lamentably failed in the performance of my duties, relatively unimportant as they are compared with those of the functionaries sent by their Government, at a great expense, to conduct a formal inquest. After a careful perusal of the document in question, I can only reaffirm my former impression as to the purpose I imagine the Report is intended to serve, and repeat my criticism that "it appears eminently unsatisfactory, and, without being actually false, there is such a *suppressio veri*, matters are so superficially considered, and testimony and facts of a vital importance are so quietly ignored or traversed, that the withholding of a large amount of information necessary in order to enable a correct appreciation of the situation to be formed, the want of detail and elementary nature of the statements seem to amount to a complete misrepresentation."

As regards its statement in detail, I have the following observations to offer for your Excellency's consideration:—

1. I imagine that it would be excessively difficult for the Porte to prove the sweeping statement as to chronic brigandage. All the Zeitounlis disturbances within the past twenty-five years have occurred owing to the resistance of the exactions of the authorities; and it is not fair to call them traditional brigands. The Circassians in the neighbouring plains, and other Moslems, have infinitely better claims to the title than the mountaineers.

The recent Zeitounlis brigands are men driven to the life of such, as far as I can learn, by their sufferings and the oppression practised towards them by agents of the Government. Their recent exemplary conduct is striking confirmatory evidence of this.

2. "*Incurie* and *insouciance*." After the conduct of Daoud Effendi, the torturer and murderer of his servant, as officially stated by the Marash Tribunal, this is a singular euphemism.

3. As to the troops, hitherto there have been none at Zeitoun; but at Marash, a "tabor merkez," or battalion head-quarters, there has been either a battalion or its depôt. There is nothing to show that the somewhat reduced numbers here was the cause of the disturbances, except in so far as the want of force may have increased the sufferings of the Zeitounlis. They were, as your Excellency is aware, blockaded by hostile Mussulman neighbours (as they have continued to be since the return of a considerable military force), and finding redress or protection by the Government hopeless, it was the reprisals on these neighbours that form the charges on which they have now been condemned. With these three or four lines the Commissioners, ordered to make a thorough investigation, dismiss the causes of the outbreak, one of the principal points of their mission, in my humble opinion, as a true appreciation of these can alone enable them to make a provision for the maintenance of permanent tranquillity in the future, no less a portion of their duty than to report on the actual facts of the past.

4. How the terrified population, who were captured in the streets, on the road, in the vineyards and fields, assisted in making arrests, I cannot imagine.

5. The subsequent events, and the torture of prisoners, are fully described in Governor Henderson's despatch of the 6th January.

6. The statement as to the forty-three Zeitounlis found in Aleppo is perfectly correct; but a person ignorant of the Zeitoun question would hardly realize, from the Commissioners' absence of comment, the importance of the proof it is of Kiamil Pasha's gross abuse of his supreme powers.

I may add that, had it not been for my visit to the prison and my representations, I have little doubt, from what has subsequently occurred, that no action would have been taken in the matter.

7. The Mixed Commission instituted at Marash was ordered to examine the accusations against the prisoners; it had no competence to try them; all it was, therefore, able to recommend was the liberation of those against whom there was absolutely nothing. As regarded the others, its task of assisting them in any way was rendered very difficult by the fact that the terror their sufferings, cruel treatment, &c., had induced, and the ill-advice of members of their community, in spite of all I could do to the contrary, decided them to deny everything. No course was, therefore, open to the Court but to accept interrogatories, whether extorted from prisoners, coerced by the use of the bayonet, &c., or, as in other cases, representing the depositions of those who did not, I am informed, even understand Turkish.

8. Not a word is said as to the volumes by the fact of having, after eight months of a captivity, amounting almost to torture, to release, as illegally detained, twenty-one people; and the fact that, against eight of the dead, there were similarly absolutely no accusation.

9. As to the recommendation of the Court to try them, their declaration simply amounted to this: "You have told us to examine these men, we find perfectly innocent, and to be illegally detained; against the rest there are accusations (true or false) which the Tribunals must decide upon."

The farce of the whole affair, and the shallowness of the device, is evident. Instead of having a Mixed Commission, or Court, to sit from three to four weeks, any person with access to the prison registers and Government records could have given the same answer after a few hours.

I feared from the outset that the intention was to submit the matter to the notoriously-biased and incompetent Marash Tribunals. I did my best, and reported my action to Mr. Malet. Although the point of a Mixed Court appeared a gain, it proved a merely nominal one, and the practical result was that these prisoners were tried by the ordinary Tribunals, at a time, too, when the failure of the Commission and the turn events had taken had encouraged them to indulge their vindictive spirit, and convict all the prisoners without misgivings.

10. These miserable prisoners were prosecuted not as political prisoners, but by a public prosecutor, with all the rigour of the criminal law.

One has been condemned to death, and the rest to terms of imprisonment varying from three to fifteen years; the statement in my telegram of the 12th July, on the authority of the Commissioners, was the information they had at the time, i.e., eleven were to be condemned to death, but the sentence was only finally given in one case.

11. As to Babek, your Excellency is aware of the situation, the statement as to but few men remaining on the mountains was a direct misstatement at the time, as I have already informed your Excellency by telegram, and in No. 13.

12. The actual doings of the Commission were described in my despatch No. 9. Husni Effendi, the Zeitoun Kaïmakam, an honest man, recommended by the Consul, has resigned.

As regards the communes, I may remark that as there is no town except Zeitoun, and as the rest of the population lies in widely scattered hamlets and farms, I foresee great difficulties in getting the Communal Councils to work; it is about the worst locality where the system could have been introduced, and if it fails it will be no criterion of the inapplicability of the general principle.

13. As to the Commission to report on the land taxes, while I was at Zeitoun the functionary who presided never went out on the ground, and it made such a bad beginning that he was removed. Of the subsequent fate of the Commission I can say nothing.

14. As to the gendarmerie I have already spoken of it in No. 9. Rushdi Bey happened to be present in the district on other affairs. The reorganization has consisted of the dismissal of the old zaptiehs and hiring new ones, and, adding some "gardes champêtres," there is no reorganization or change in the pay or regulations that I can learn; and Hazbei Pasha told me (July 21) that they could not even get the authorization for the pay called for the force, who were clamouring for it.

I cannot, therefore, be very sanguine as to a new régime having been in any way introduced, or as to the probable cessation of the old abuses.

15. The barrack was at once commenced, and is now, I hear, complete. The suggestion of blockhouses, an alternative, was eagerly caught at, and two are also in progress of construction. At a time when the soldiers are unpaid, the police unpaid and disorganized, and a sort of general chaos and anarchy prevalent throughout the Administration, the Government can yet afford to spend or waste money for anything connected with measures of repression.

The cost of the barrack is, I believe, between 2,000*l.* or 3,000*l.*, and each blockhouse will probably be 700*l.* or 800*l.*

16. Weissi Pasha and Echmin Effendi have certainly been arraigned, and, as far I can learn, that is all. The former, however, was arraigned on such trivial charges, that, even if convicted, his offence would seem very venial. I have understood, perhaps wrongly, from the Commissioner, that his indictment came from the Porte. I have already informed your Excellency of what inquiry on the spot reveals as to his conduct.

The other official does not seem in any way likely to receive punishment; he actually had the assurance to call on the Consul and myself yesterday, and asked me to use my influence with your Excellency to get him nominated to Zeitoun again, when he promised to represent British and American interests. Not a word is said in the Commissioner's Report as to the charges against two functionaries, the conduct of the trial, &c.

17. Then follows a singularly *naïve* paragraph—"Une autre Pétition." This "autre pétition" embodies, as your Excellency is aware, the whole case of the Zeitounlis. As regards their wants, the absurdity of a Commissioner sent to make a settlement passing over, with a casual mention, what is the whole essence of the affair is evident; it is quickly dismissed as "dépassant la limite des pouvoirs." Surely it would not have been unreasonable, if such be the case, to have looked for a carefully-weighed discussion of each point by those who have been sent all the way from Constantinople on purpose to make an inquiry and settlement, with which all the questions touched on are intimately connected.

The concluding lines, as to peace and tranquillity, would seem, indeed, a grim sarcasm to the Zeitounlis, could they hear or see them.

I may add a few remarks of criticism on the actual proceedings of the Commission as recounted in their own document. As I informed your Excellency no one thing is an accomplished fact, except the military occupation.

A few unpaid councils have, indeed, been introduced among mountaineers, whose capability for the application of the most moderate measures of local self-government is very questionable.

On the gendarmerie question I reserve my opinion till I have again visited Zeitoun; but both Commissioners were extremely dissatisfied, and I much doubt if any real improvement has taken place; no radical changes were made.

Avowedly to the Consuls here, myself and many others, the Commissioners stated that they came to make inquiries, and with powers to settle the question, and to bring guilty functionaries to justice, to amnesty both the prisoners and brigands (if only as a question of expediency), and to arrange the taxation.

The prisoners, except if illegally detained, remain in prison, and are now all condemned to various sentences. The brigands remain unamnestied. The place is in military occupation. No settlement has been made as to the taxation.

No reparation has been made for the robbery and excesses of the troops last year, and the forced and unpaid contribution of the inhabitants.

So much for the facts, which speak for themselves, and are a heavy indictment against the Commission wherever the responsibility may rest.

As to the document itself, it bears evidence of its dual authorship; the most important facts have been introduced in such a manner and in such phraseology that their importance might easily be overlooked. Everything is colourless, and there is no expression of opinion; an absence of it indeed that in European functionnaries could amount to a neglect of duty. Any such official would, I imagine, refuse to sign a similar document, so misleading is it without being actually false.

While on the other side it contains certain facts that from the general tenour of the Report would, I think, have been omitted had the Turkish Commissioners grasped their full significance, or that can have only been admitted after one of such vehement discussions as I have at times been present at, on the other hand nothing palliatory of the misdeeds of the Zeitounlis appears.

While still at Zeitoun I informed your Excellency (No. 9) of what nature I anticipated the Report would be, and it has surpassed my expectations.

Besides, however, the statement in the document, I must add a few remarks in conclusion as to its surprising deficiencies. Of the real causes which I have essayed to set forth in my despatch No. 11, not a word is said.

Of the arrears of taxation, nothing; of the condition of the Zeitounlis, nothing; of their disarmament and their demand on this head, nothing; of the lawless doing of the soldiery and zaptiehs, nothing; of the forced contributions still unpaid, nothing.

Of the treatment of the prisoners in the camp last year, not a word; of the acts of Weissi Pasha, Liva Mazher Pasha, and of Kiamil Pasha, not a word; of the seizure of the women, not a word.

I will not add to the length of this despatch by descending to minor details. It is hardly possible to imagine that the Porte is really anxious to be informed of the true state of the case, and to render justice would be content to accept such a Report, and I do not hesitate to state to your Excellency my belief that it has been either directly inspired by those who throughout have used their influence to deter the Government from following a just, humane, and politic course, or that at any rate its tenour is due to such inspiration, and I can at the same time give your Excellency the most earnest assurances that it gives anything but a true representation of the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 16.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, August 6, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency despatch of the 13th July, and I beg to make the following observations on the document therein inclosed.

As Lieutenant Chermside accompanied the Commissioner to Zeitoun and is more conversant with the details of the more recent phases of the Zeitoun affairs than I am, and has given his remarks at length, I confine myself to a general statement.

Mr. Chermside has treated of six principal points in which I fully concur.

1. In the idea that it is improbable that this actually represents the Report of the Commission to the Porte and I could scarcely suppose that the Porte would spend thousands of pounds in sending this Commission here, and be satisfied with such a Report if it actually has at heart the success of the mission of the Commission, and the Commissioners themselves for their own reputation would scarcely, I should think, send such a meagre document to the Porte.

2. In the fact that the suppression of facts and testimony amount to misrepresentation.

3. That the only tangible result is the military occupation.

A few paper reforms and the establishment of some local unpaid Councils amongst a population singularly backward, and, therefore, little likely to appreciate any slight measure of local independence, are scarcely likely when accompanied by nothing further to satisfy the wishes of poor creatures ground down by poverty, clad in rags, and almost in want of bread.

4. It seems unreasonable for a Commission sent not only to hold inquiries but to give redress and effect a settlement to pass over the petition in which are exposed all the demands and grievances of the population as it does in this Report. The whole essence of the matter lies in this, and if action in the matter it treats of were impossible for them, the least that could be expected would be a careful consideration and comment on each and all of its clauses.

5. That the Mixed Commission at Marash was quite a farce, it had no liberty of action, and it is evident that in sending all these men for trial, a matter in which it had no option, the Government was obliging men to give their apparent sanction to measures it forced upon them whether they approved them or not.

6. That the Report does not represent the free utterances of an independent Commission.

I find no exception to any of the details of Lieutenant Chermside or to his estimate of the weak and almost childish nature of the report. If the Porte wishes for similar Reports and to accept as genuine information of such an evident type and colour, it can of course find means to do so, and no opportunity will occur of testing the accuracy of our Reports which it would prove far harder to disprove before impartial witnesses than a document of such a flourishing and transparent nature as that in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 17.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 753.) *Therapia, August* 24, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Commissioners appointed by the Porte and the Greek Government for the rectification of the Greek frontiers met for the first time yesterday. The meeting was a purely preliminary one. The only business done was to appoint Secretaries, and to make other necessary arrangements. It was then adjourned until Thursday next, the 28th. Before the adjournment, however, the Greek Plenipotentiaries handed in a declaration, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, and in which the Porte is called upon to accept the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin as the basis upon which the negotiations are to be carried on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 17.

Extrait du Protocole No. 1 de la Séance du $\frac{19}{31}$ *Août*, 1879.

LES Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique ont déclaré qu'ils se réunissent avec les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Ottoman conformément à l'invitation faite aux deux Etats par les Grandes Puissances, que pour se conformer strictement à cette invitation, ils doivent reprendre les négociations du point où elle ont été interrompues à Preveza, que les négotiations en question ayant été, d'après les Protocoles des séances de Preveza, $\frac{7}{19}$ Février, $\frac{9}{21}$ Mars, rompues à cause de la divergence d'opinion entre les Commissaires du Gouvernement Hellénique déclarant qu'ils ne pouvaient procéder à aucune entente sur la détermination de la nouvelle ligne-frontière du Royaume qui ne serait point basée sur les stipulations du Protocole 13, à savoir : sur la vallée du Calamas en Epire et sur celle du Penée en Thessalie, et les Commissaires du Gouvernement Ottoman déclarant cette base inacceptable, les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique, sur le point de reprendre avec les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Ottoman les négociations rompues à Preveza, ont l'honneur de les prier de vouloir bien déclarer de leur coté s'ils acceptent comme base de cette reprise les déterminations du Protocole 13, à savoir : la vallée du Calamas en Epire, et celle du Penée en Thessalie.

No. 18.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 754.) *Therapia, August* 23, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of three despatches addressed to me by Vice-Consul Brophy. They refer to outrages committed upon Mussulmans by Bulgarians in Eastern Roumelia, to the insubordination of the militia in that province, and to its determination to resist the occupation of Bourgas by Turkish troops. I have thought it my duty to communicate the substance of these despatches to Safvet Pasha, and to point out to his Highness the apparent necessity of recalling Aleko Pasha to a

sense of his duty, as, otherwise, the political and military authority secured to the Sultan by the Treaty of Berlin must soon disappear altogether, and the Governor-General would merely become a tool in the hands of a factious Bulgarian majority, which would ill-treat and oppress all other nationalities. The circumstances related by Mr. Brophy, I said, taken in connection with the disloyalty and insulting conduct of certain officers of the Eastern Roumelian militia towards the Sultan, deserved the most serious consideration of the Porte, if it desired to check the evident designs of the Bulgarians to obtain the complete mastery in the province, and to put aside the Treaty of Berlin and such parts of the Constitution as they might consider opposed to their pretensions. Unless Aleko Pasha acted energetically in frustrating these designs, there would be reason to suppose that he was conniving at them, and seeking to make himself completely independent of the Porte.

It was especially the duty, I observed, of the Turkish Government to call upon Aleko Pasha to put the law in force, and prevent the perpetration of such outrages upon the Mussulman population as those described by Mr. Brophy.

Safvet Pasha appeared to look at the matter with a feeling of helplessness. He did not seem to think that the Porte could get Aleko Pasha to pay any respect to its wishes or authority. The Governor-General had surrounded himself, he said, with Bulgarian officials, and would put forward some excuse or justification for anything that he had done or might do, and for any violation of the Treaty of Berlin or of the Organic Statute. If the Porte interfered to uphold and maintain the legitimate rights of the Sultan, its interference would be resisted, and, Treaties and justice notwithstanding, the Powers would take part against it. The fact was that the Bulgarians had become too much the "enfants gâtés" of Europe to fear any consequences that might ensue from this open resistance to the authority which still remained to the Sultan in Eastern Roumelia, and to the execution of the Treaty of Berlin as regards that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, August 16, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, on the afternoon of the 11th instant, upwards of 200 soldiers of the militia arrived from Achialo at the Turkish village of Karamandja, in the district of Missekria, and immediately put all the inhabitants into the mosque, round which sentries were placed.

Shortly afterwards four men were taken out, and, under pretence that they were acquainted with the hiding-place of a Turkish deserter from the militia, were beaten almost to death. Soldiers then broke into the house of the brother of the alleged deserter (who, the Turks say, has not deserted, but is still serving with his company), instituted a search, of which the real object appeared to be pillage, and six or seven of them violated the man's wife, finally extracting from her 100 piastres as the price of protection from further outrage.

The complaint of the villagers of Karamandja has been forwarded by the Prefect of Bourgas to the officer commanding the militia of this district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, August 16, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," on her way to the Danube, anchored in this harbour on the 14th instant.

The Bulgarian harbour-master having evolved the idea that the "Cockatrice" intended to land several regiments of Turkish troops during the night, about 300 of

the militia were stationed till daybreak in the vicinity of the piers in order to render any such landing impossible.

The "Cockatrice" left Bourgas early yesterday morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 18.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, August 20, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, in consequence of repeated complaints against the militia, these troops, on the 15th instant, received orders from their commanding officer to perform their night-patrol duty without their rifles. On this occasion the order was obeyed, but on the following evening two or three patrols having again been sent out unarmed, all the rest marched with their rifles into the town, drew up in a line before the konak, and demanded to see the Prefect.

Captain Idanoff, their commanding officer, came to the spot, and reiterated the order, in answer to which the men declared they would do no patrol duty unless they were allowed to carry their rifles. Captain Idanoff attempted to seize one of the ringleaders, but was immediately surrounded and hustled by the men, who declared that they would not allow one of their number to be arrested.

Captain Idanoff then asked them whether they absolutely refused to obey their officers, and was told that, in this case, they did so refuse, and that there were, moreover, now no Russian troops to enforce their obedience. He then declared his intention of resigning the command of such mutinous troops, and was told that he was quite at liberty to do so.

He then telegraphed his resignation, as I believe, to Philippopoli, as he no longer commands. The troops, on the order of the non-commissioned officer, then marched back to camp, taking the unarmed patrols with them, and since then the patrol duty of the town has been done by the police only.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CH. A. BROPHY.

No. 19.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 735. Secret.)

Therapia, August 23, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a memorandum, given to me by Sir A. Sandison, of a conversation between himself and Munir Bey, who holds a high position in the Palace, and is frequently consulted by the Sultan on public affairs. I had instructed Sir A. Sandison to request Munir Bey to hint to the Sultan that I had begged Her Majesty's Government to accede to His Majesty's request that the British fleet should not anchor in Besika Bay, but that I had done so, and Her Majesty's Government had consented, on the understanding that His Majesty would fulfil his promise to commence seriously with the reforms in Asia Minor, and to name Baker Pasha to a high command in Kurdistan. If these promises were not fulfilled I should consider myself released from that which I had given him, that the British fleet should not return to Besika Bay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Memorandum.

(Very Confidential.)

CONSIDERING the position held by Munir Bey at the Palace, I think it right to report to your Excellency the substance of a conversation I had with him this

afternoon, which was brought about on my pointing out to him the importance of at once giving Baker Pasha, as intended, a military command in Asia.

Having heard the remarks which had been made on the subject before, I was not surprised to hear Munir Bey say that the appointment of exclusively military officers to all the Consular posts in Asia had not failed to excite considerable suspicion in the Turkish official circles of the capital and country, and that any pressure now put upon the Porte and Sultan about Baker Pasha's appointment could only tend to revive and strengthen that suspicion.

Munir Bey then went on to say that the suspicion he had alluded to originated with the idea entertained by many Turks that, in order to serve and protect her own interests, England aimed, though by peaceful means, at nothing short of the ultimate possession of the Asiatic provinces of Turkey.

He, for one, did not believe England capable of indulging in similar designs for the love of conquest or agression; but he felt quite convinced of one thing, namely, that, as there was every probability of the situation in Asia getting still more unsatisfactory, the time must come, he emphatically observed, for England to step forward and simply take possession of the country.

I could not conceal from Munir Bey the irritation I felt to hear such designs attributed to Her Majesty's Government. There was a time, I said, that England might have got Asia without any trouble at all,—whilst Turkey was lying prostrate at the feet of Russia,—but, rather than take that course, she offered the Sultan her support and alliance for the future protection of His Majesty's Asiatic possessions. If England, I added, had really any views on Asia, she certainly had means enough at her disposal for openly realizing her object without condescending to use Baker Pasha as a secret instrument for similar purposes; but that as his observation as regards the future state of things in Asia seemed to imply a continual state of misrule and anarchy in that quarter, I would frankly tell him my opinion that in that case, not in any other, Her Majesty's Government would, indeed, have to carry on matters with a very high hand. It may be hard for the Turks to submit to it, but it must happen some day, unless Turkey chose to realize the pressing necessity for reforms, and apply herself earnestly to introducing them in Asia in particular.

The serious pressure to be anticipated from England was intended for their own good, and I would borrow, I said, the words of an intelligent Turk, who told me not long ago that "were England at this moment to break our bones with a stick, by way of bringing us to our senses, most Turks would readily exclaim, 'Behold the father chastising the child!'" Such, indeed, I added would be the spirit in which England would have to impose her will upon you; for, as your Excellency had often repeated it to the Sultan, the policy and wishes of Her Majesty's Government were to strengthen, not to weaken Turkey, whose alliance with England must, moreover, rest on reciprocal political interests, rather than on mere friendship and mutual sympathy.

Reverting to the situation in Asia, the Sultan must not, I said, remain indifferent to the increasing dangers of an Armenian political autonomy, which was actually receiving general encouragement, except from your Excellency and Her Majesty's Government; but that if means calculated to prevent it, namely, protection of life and property, and a fair administration of justice, coupled with Baker Pasha's appointment to a military command in Asia,—were to be neglected, your Excellency did not, indeed, see what further support and advice you could possibly offer His Majesty and his Government; and that, seeing the turn things in general were now taking, you did not feel sure that you would not have to order the fleet back to Besika Bay, notwithstanding that you had, at His Majesty's special request, made arrangements for its proceeding to some other anchorage.

The conversation ended by Munir Bey promising to avail himself of the first good opportunity for impressing the Sultan with the urgency of the reforms for Asia, and with the importance of Baker Pasha's appointment. He added, however, that as long as we left Turkey a good and plausible excuse, "want of money," he greatly despaired of real reforms. "Take away that one excuse, get us thus into a corner, and let our Ministers then try to find another one, if they can, for justifying all this procrastination in reference to the realization of the reforms."

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Therapia, August 21, 1879.

No. 20.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 758.)
Therapia, August 24, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter which Colonel Synge has been good enough to address to me containing suggestions as to the organization of the gendarmerie in the provinces of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Colonel Synge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Therapia, August 20, 1879.

Sir,

IN accordance with the wish expressed by your Excellency, I have the honour to forward the suggestions I have ventured to make regarding the organization of the gendarmerie in the provinces of the Ottoman Empire:—

That a Commission should be instituted in each province of the Empire, of which one of the European officers of the gendarmerie should be a member, to inquire into and report to the Sublime Porte on the future organization of the gendarmerie.

The points to which the attention of the Commission would be particularly drawn would be—

The numerical strength of the force required;
The proportion of cavalry and infantry;
The principal stations;
The proportion of officers;
Rates of pay;
Length of service;
The local questions of collections of taxes by the police;
The town police;
The railway police; &c.

The Commission would take the opportunities occurring to it to obtain information from the local Councils (Medjliss) and Notables as to the best means of raising a police tax for the expenses of the force, whether by a municipal tax on such articles as raki, wine, &c., or otherwise.

It is certain that such a tax, falling upon a population a large portion of whom can afford to remain in idleness for 163 days in the year, could easily be borne, and would willingly be paid.

At the same time, the Sublime Porte having adopted this method of maintaining its police force, would enforce the same upon the foreign subjects residing in its provinces, whose representatives would be unwilling to impede a measure so beneficial to the country.

The organization, which, of course, would vary slightly in each provice, having been accepted and adopted by the Sublime Porte, could be superintended temporarily by the Commission, who would see to its working and carrying out, recommending any modifications the necessity of which might from time to time arise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SYNGE.

No. 21.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 760.)
Therapia, August 24, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the instructions which I have addressed to Lieutenant Kitchener, who is about to leave for his post at Kastamouni by way of Ada Bazar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Sir A. H. Layard to Lieutenant Kitchener.

Therapia, August 23, 1879.

Sir,

YOU will find inclosed a berat recognizing you as British Vice-Consul in the district of Kastamouni. Colonel Wilson is desirous that in proceeding to your post by land you should visit the town and district of Ada Bazar, and report upon their condition. I had intended, before the receipt of Colonel Wilson's telegram on this subject, to request you to do so. The accounts that I have recently received from Ada Bazar describe the inhabitants of that place, Mussulmans as well as Christians, as being exposed to every manner of excess and outrage on the part of the Circassian refugees, who have been sent by the Porte to that district without the means of subsistence, and without having been disarmed.

They are afraid, I am informed, to leave the town; murders and robberies are of frequent occurrence, the roads are so unsafe that caravans scarcely dare to venture upon them, and trade and commerce are consequently at a standstill. I have brought this state of things to the notice of the Porte, and am assured that measures are being taken to restore order and security to life and property in the district. I should be glad to hear from you whether any such measures have been taken, and with what result, and to receive from you a general report of the condition of the country.

With a view to facilitating your inquiries, I have obtained for you a letter from the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople to Mgr. Stepan. His Beatitude has been one of those who have brought to my knowledge the complaints of the Christians of Ada Bazar, of acts of violence and outrage perpetrated by the Circassians, into which I should wish you to inquire.

I should also be glad to hear any suggestions you may have to offer as to the manner of dealing with the Circassian refugees with a view to maintaining order amongst them, and to putting an end to their lawless habits, which have been the cause of so much suffering to the population amongst whom they have settled.

I have further to inclose a travelling Bouyouroudi, which will enable you to obtain from the Turkish authorities all the assistance you may require in the prosecution of your journey. It is desirable that you should leave Constantinople for your post as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 22.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 762.)
Therapia, August 25, 1879.

My Lord,

SAFVET PASHA told me to-day that he was occupying himself seriously with the new "Règlements" which were to be introduced, in pursuance of the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, into the European provinces of Turkey, and which he had the intention of extending at the same time to the Asiatic provinces. He was resolved, he said, that no further time should be lost in carrying out the Treaty in this respect.

I expressed my satisfaction at what he had said to me, and urged him strongly not to delay any further the execution of the Treaty engagements of the Porte in this matter, to which Her Majesty's Government attached great importance, and the non-fulfilment of which up to the present time had caused a very unfavourable impression in Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 23.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 763.)
Therapia, August 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE communicated to Safvet Pasha the substance of some of Mr. Gould's despatches to your Lordship, in which he describes the steps that he has taken to induce the Servian Government to treat the Mussulmans resident in Servia with justice, and to respect their rights, and to permit those who have been driven out of the villages now within Servian territory to return to their homes and their lands.

His Highness said that he had already been informed by Sermed Effendi, the Turkish Minister at Belgrade, of the valuable assistance that he had received from Mr. Gould in his representations to the Servian Government on these subjects, and he begged me to request your Lordship to convey to Mr. Gould his heartfelt thanks for the generous protection that he had extended to the Mussulman population, and the efficient aid that he had given to Sermed Effendi in his attempts to secure to them their rights.

His Highness also begged me to express to your Lordship and to Her Majesty's Government his gratitude for the interest they had shown in the Mussulmans of Servia, and for the representations they had addressed to the Servian Government on behalf of these poor people, which promised to secure to them just and impartial treatment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 24.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 765.)
Therapia, August 25, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Corbett's despatch to your Lordship No. 205, of the 20th instant, a copy of which he has communicated to me, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I had already received a petition from the inhabitants of Macrinitza, complaining of the treatment they receive from the Turkish authorities, and had instructed Mr. Longworth to report to me upon the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 25.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 767.)
Therapia, August 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Blakeney, Vice-Consul at Prevesa, respecting acts of brigandage perpetrated in the districts of Prevesa and Arta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, August 16, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that within the last few days the two following acts of brigandage were perpetrated in the districts of Prevesa and Arta.

1. At Palcorofiro, district of Prevesa, a native of Prevesa, named Costa Mandusi, was carried off by brigands, and nothing has been heard of him since.

2. At Domoko, district of Arta, a native of Shulakario was carried off by a band of brigands composed of deserters from the army ("hudutishs") and zaptiehs, but was ransomed for £ T. 100.

Imperial troops were, however, despatched to pursue these brigands, and succeeded in killing one of the robbers, whose head they brought to Arta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 26.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 184. Confidential.)
Philippopoli, August 20, 1879.

My Lord,

GENERAL DOUHONINE, of the Russian army, has arrived at Philippopoli, for the purpose of settling the accounts connected with the Russian occupation of this province.

The Director of Finance having said to the General that a claim on the part of Russia for the maintenance of the provincial militia and gendarmerie would not, in his opinion, be admissible, his Excellency hinted that the Russian Government would eventually forego the latter claim, as well as the one for the military occupation of Eastern Roumelia, but that it was necessary to make up the accounts as a matter of official form.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 27.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 185.)
Philippopoli, August 23, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 19th instant I have the honour to report that the Bulgarian Counsellors of the Governor-General have determined to maintain their intention of publicly celebrating the name-day of Aleko Pasha (Prince Alexander Vogorides), on the date appropriated in the Russian Church Calendar to the commemoration of St. Alexander Nevski, who defeated the Swedes on the banks of the Neva, A.D. 1241.

This is also the day on which the fête of the Emperor of Russia is celebrated throughout His Majesty's dominions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 28.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 186.)
Philippopoli, August 25, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Governor-General has failed to keep a promise which he made to me on the 9th instant, and instead of supplying me with a copy of the Report of the Commission which had been appointed under Article 13, Appendix I. to Chapter XIII of the Statute, to advise the Governor-General on the subject of the formation of electoral districts, he has simply forwarded to me under blank cover the Bulgarian text of a letter addressed by the Secretary-General to the Prefects of departments calling upon them to cause the immediate preparation of electoral lists.

Those instructions are now being printed in the Bulgarian, Greek, and Turkish languages, and will be issued in a few days.

I have not failed to represent to Aleko Pasha the gravity of the situation that will be created by any arrangement that he may sanction with the object of securing

an almost exclusively Bulgarian representation of this province; but his Excellency appears to have perfect confidence in the strength of his position, since he has simply approved and adopted the Report of the Commission constituted under the terms of the Organic Statute.

Meanwhile I have, from another source, obtained the data with which the Governor-General had promised to supply me. I am engaged in studying those figures and verifying their correctness, and, therefore, am at present only in a position to forward to your Lordship herewith an abstract of the Tables prepared by the Commission in question.

It is evident that no account has been taken of the Turkish refugees that have returned to their homes, and I am informed that the present official number of these is 40,000.

From the general abstract which I have made of those Tables it appears that, excluding the department of Philippopoli, in respect to which the Tables afford an imperfect statement of the relative proportion of the several races, about 77 per cent. of the population of the remaining five departments is considered to be Bulgarian; while as regards the electoral districts of the department of Philippopoli, for which the relative strength of the several races is given in the Tables, the population of the Bulgarian element is set down at 53 per cent.

The total population of the province, exclusive of Turkish refugees, is estimated at about 680,000, out of which the number of Greeks acknowledged as such by the Commission, so far as it appears from their Tables, is about 27,500; but when the lists of the 4th, 5th, and 6th electoral districts of this department are completed, a further number of 10,000 to 15,000 Greeks will probably be added.

On the other hand, the Greeks estimate their own numbers at 60,000 to 100,000.

The number of Turks, exclusive of gipsies (about 10,000), returned by the Commission, is approximately only 40,000; but this estimate will be increased when the twelve mountain villages in this department, of which the names and populations appear to be still unknown, are eventually added. Twenty other villages in the district of Ichtiman have likewise been omitted from the above estimates.

The Turks consider their present numbers, including returned refugees, to be about 110,000, while the number of refugees who have still to return is stated to be about 150,000.

There is no doubt that all these figures are very imperfect and even incorrect, having been collected with partiality, and submitted to no proper control.

Nevertheless, the result of such control would undoubtedly show a considerable predominance of the Bulgarian element over all others.

The more important question, however, for the present, is whether the electors have been fairly, or unfairly, grouped.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

ABSTRACT of Population of the different Departments of Eastern Roumelia.

	No. of Towns and Villages.	Bulgarians.	Turks.	Gipsies.	Greeks.	Armenians.	Jews.	Europeans.	Total.
I.—*Department of Philippopolis.*									
1st Electoral District	1	13,501	3,415	1,238	3,500	400	880	..	22,853
2nd ,, ...	15	19,008	280	237	13	..	..	..	20,116
3rd ,, ...	30	17,588	1,641	293	..	..	..	..	19,521
4th ,, ...	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,942
5th ,, ...	38	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,966
6th ,, ...	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,224
7th ,, ...	20*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,105
8th ,, ...	47	20,348	2,168	456	..	..	..	..	22,972
		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	159,132
II.—*Department of Slivno.*									
1st Electoral District	14	17,927	7	873	..	117	100	..	19,024
2nd ,, ...	19	17,531	841	672	..	..	..	..	19,047
3rd ,, ...	32	19,633	1	274	..	..	261	..	20,169
4th ,, ...	53	16,332	3	53	1,620	..	..	..	18,077
5th ,, ...	50	16,325	966	..	1,235	..	..	..	18,526
6th ,, ...	23	7,319	..	..	9,630	..	..	..	16,949
		95,070	1,817	1,872	12,555	117	361	..	111,792
III.—*Department of Tatar-Bazardjik.*									
1st Electoral District	21	14,015	2,531	2,149	173	471	1,060	333	20,432
2nd ,, ...	35	12,862	9,125	685	314	..	..	231	22,886
3rd ,, ...	38	10,191	..	261	..	..	..	333	10,455
4th ,, ...	17	20,323	366	125	..	..	..	98	20,814
5th ,, ...	33	18,857	955	169	..	..	..	..	19,981
	20†	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,000
		76,281	12,980	3,389	487	471	1,060	1,003	105,570
IV.—*Department of Haskeui.*									
1st Electoral District	2	12,460	5,385	1,033	..	..	198	..	19,056
2nd ,, ...	28	14,243	2,800	271	..	..	..	..	17,319
3rd ,, ...	22	15,838	1,266	341	..	..	..	..	17,445
4th ,, ...	21	14,963	2,356	148	..	..	..	..	17,467
5th ,, ...	36	19,488	109	108	932	..	..	..	20,717
		76,997	11,896	1,991	922	..	198	..	92,001
V.—*Department of Eski-Zagra.*									
1st Electoral District	29	20,191	..	..	..	..	..	1,574	21,765
2nd ,, ...	61	20,317	..	..	..	..	..	905	21,222
3rd ,, ...	17	19,223	..	18	..	..	..	..	19,241
4th ,, ...	26	18,835	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,835
5th ,, ...	28	18,134	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,134
6th ,, ...	21	17,203	1,054	444	..	..	..	..	18,701
7th ,, ...	26	17,505	1,215	203	..	..	..	..	18,923
		131,408	2,270	665	..	..	..	2,479	136,822
VI.—*Department of Bourgas.*									
1st Electoral District. Bourgas ..	30	12,449	770	..	2,900	..	..	..	16,119
2nd ,, Aidoslu, M.	53	5,543	5,030	..	6,468	..	..	..	17,041
3rd ,, Aidos ..	59	11,293	4,226	..	725	..	..	..	16,244
4th ,, Karisbad .	44	13,937	2,325	..	..	..	..	..	16,262
								18,000	18,000
		43,222	12,351	..	10,093	..	..	..	83,666

* And twelve other villages, names and population unknown.
† Villages in the disputed district of Ichtiman.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

GENERAL Abstract of the Total Population of Eastern Roumelia.

				Of which Bulgarians.	
				Number.	Per cent.
I. Department of	Philippopolis	.. .. ..	159,132	(?)	(?)
II. ,,	Slivno	.. .. ..	111,792	95,070	85
III. ,,	Tatar-Bazardjik	104,571 refugees ..	105,570	76,281	72¼
	,, ,,	1,008			
IV. ,,	Haskeui	..	92,001	76,997	83¼
V. ,,	Eski-Zagra	..	136,822	131,408	95
VI. ,,	Bourgas	..	83,666	43,408	51¾
Total	.. .. ..	.. ..	688,995	..	77¼

No. 29.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 187.)

Philippopoli, August 23, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, copies of letters that have been addressed to me by General Vitalis on the subject of his endeavour to obtain officially the names of the officiers who had repudiated in the "Maritza" the allegation that they had drunk the health of the Sultan on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday, and who had, moreover, stated in their letter to that journal that such an allegation was calculated to compromise their good relations with the "wise and patriotic population of this Province."

General Vitalis has also supplied me with the inclosed copy of a letter which he addressed to the "Maritza," after the Secretary-General had refused, as Director of the Interior, to procure the names of the officiers in question.

The editor having, on his part, refused to give those names to the General, the latter has this day addressed to the Governor-General the letter of which I am likewise in a position to forward to your Lordship a copy, and in which General Vitalis calls upon Aleko Pasha, as the direct Representative of the Sultan, to take such steps as may be necessary to preserve from outrage the dignity of the Sovereign of this country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

General Vitalis to Consul-General Michell.

Philippopoli, le 16 *Août*, 1879.

M. le Consul-Général,

LA "Maritza" du 31 Juillet renfermant une lettre fort inconvenante à l'égard de Sa Majesté le Sultan, le journal se faisait fort de livrer à qui de droit les dits signataires de cette lettre.

Je me suis adressé tout d'abord au Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur, qui m'a répondu par une fin de non-recevoir, en m'invitant moi-même à faire cette démarche; c'est ce que je me suis décidé à faire aujourd'hui. Vous jugerez par la lettre ci-incluse de la façon de procéder du journalisme dans ce pays et de l'impunité dont il jouit.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) V. VITALIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

Lieutenant Loukoff to General Vitalis.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Août*, 1879.

Mon Général,

D'APRÈS vos ordres je me suis rendu chez le propriétaire du journal la "Maritza," auquel j'ai remis votre lettre, en date d'aujourd'hui, par laquelle vous lui demandiez les noms des seize officiers qui avaient signé une lettre dans le journal la "Maritza," le 13 Juillet, et dont les signatures étaient à la disposition de qui de droit.

Le propriétaire m'a répondu qu'il allait au Ministère, et qu'il me rendrait réponse à son retour.

J'y suis retourné à 3 heures, et là j'ai reçu cette réponse:—"Je n'ai rien à vous donner; il y a des Tribunaux; que le Général s'y adresse."

Voilà ce que je sais.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) LOUKOFF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 29.

General Vitalis to Consul-General Michell.

Philippopoli, le 23 *Août*, 1879.

M. le Consul-Général,

SUIVANT le désir que vous m'avez exprimé, j'ai l'honneur de vous adresser copie de deux lettres au sujet de l'affaire des officiers Russes; l'une écrite, le 1er Août, à M. le Secrétaire-Général, et la seconde, en date du 4 même mois, au Directeur du journal la "Maritza."

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) V. VITALIS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 29.

General Vitalis to M. Cristovitch.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Août*, 1879.

M. le Secrétaire-Général,

LA "Maritza" contient, dans son numéro d'hier, une protestation d'un certain nombre d'officiers Russes au sujet d'un toast qu'un journal leur aurait prêté.

Le journal la "Maritza" ajoute qu'il tient les noms de ces officiers à la disposition de qui de droit.

Je pense qu'en présence de cette insulte grossière faite à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et de ce manque de discipline il vous appartient, M. le Secrétaire-Général, de vouloir bien me faire connaître les noms de ces officiers.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) V. VITALIS.

Inclosure 5 in No. 29.

General Vitalis to the Editor of the "Maritza."

Philippopoli, le $\frac{2}{14}$ *Août*, 1879.

M. le Directeur,

VEUILLEZ remettre à l'officier porteur de cette lettre les noms des seize officiers qui ont adressé, dans la "Maritza" du 31 Juillet, une lettre à la suite de laquelle il est dit que leurs signatures sont à la disposition de qui de droit.

(Signé) V. VITALIS.

Inclosure 6 in No. 29.

General Vitalis to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{13}{25}$ *Août*, 1879.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

DANS son numéro du $\frac{31 \text{ Juillet}}{12 \text{ Août}}$, le journal la "Maritza" publia une violente protestation d'un certain nombre d'officiers Russes, actuellement au service de la Roumélie Orientale, au sujet d'un toast qu'un journal leur aurait prêté. Le journal la "Maritza" ajoutait qu'elle tenait les noms de ces officiers à la disposition de qui de droit.

En présence de cette insulte grossière faite à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et de ce manque complet de discipline je m'adressai, par ma communication en date du $\frac{1}{13}$ courant, à M. le Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur, pour obtenir son appui et avoir par son autorité, que je le prié de vouloir bien m'accorder en cette affaire, les noms des officers signataires de cette protestation. La réponse fut négative; M. le Secrétaire-Général déclinait toute intervention.

En face de ce refus d'immixtion, je n'hésitais point un instant à envoyer mon chef d'Etat-Major, le Colonel de Toustain, auprès de la Direction de la "Maritza" pour obtenir les noms de ces officiers.

M. le Directeur de la "Maritza," mis en demeure de réponse immédiate, prétexta une sortie urgente, promettant à son retour dans une demi-heure, disait-il, de faire droit a ma demande.

J'attribue cette sortie à une excuse de demande d'instructions auprès des inspirateurs de ce journal.

La réponse promise se faisant longtemps attendre, je m'adressai par écrit au Directeur de la "Maritza," le priant derechef de me donner, ainsi qu'il publiait désirer le faire à toute réquisition, les noms des signataires de la protestation. Le Sous-Lieutenant Loukoff, attaché à l'État-Major, remettait en personne cette lettre à M. le Directeur de la "Maritza."

Cette fois la réponse fut autre. Le Directeur de cette feuille, manquant à sa parole, deux fois donnée, refusait de faire droit à ma demande, me renvoyant aux Tribunaux qui auraient à statuer.

Toutes mes démarches n'ayant donc point abouti au résultat voulu, je m'adresse en dernier ressort à vous, M. le Gouverneur-Général, pour qu'en votre qualité de Représentant direct de Sa Majesté le Sultan, vous preniez telles mesures que vous croirez opportunes pour sauvegarder de tout outrage la dignité du Souverain du pays.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) VITALIS.

No. 30.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 188.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, August* 23, 1879.

I SPOKE to Aleko Pasha this morning on the subject of the searching of Turkish refugees for arms, having myself been a witness, with others, of such proceedings at the railway station.

I mentioned to his Excellency that an old Turkish woman had showered blessings on our heads for having by our presence saved some of her younger companions from being stripped by the gendarmes, and that I had been shocked at the confiscation of the leather saddle-bags, which the Turkish peasantry need so greatly, merely on the plea that they contained an old cartridge or two.

Three or four rusty pistols, which looked more like family relics than offensive or defensive weapons, had also been seized in my presence; and I asked the Governor-General under what law or regulation the Turkish refugees were searched for arms, while the entire male Bulgarian population of this province was not only armed with rifles, but allowed to assemble in the open air for drill?

His Excellency replied that there was no reason whatever why the refugees should be searched for arms while the Bulgarians were in possession of Russian rifles, and that, being equally shocked at such injustice, he had given orders that the refugees should no longer be searched.

Having asked the Governor-General the date of those orders, since I had witnessed the searching of refugees only the day before yesterday, his Excellency took up a pen, and, making a note, assured me that he would give the necessary orders immediately.

He added, in reply to the other part of my question, that the searching of the refugees had been ordered by the local police.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 31.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 192.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, August* 23, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 182, Telegraphic, of the 19th instant, I have the honour to report that the so-called "Bulgarian" flag has been hauled down at Slivno, after considerable hesitation on the part of the local representatives of the "National Committee," whose consent was at last given to such a course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 32.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 252.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 22, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 247 of the 17th instant, inclosing a copy of the Turkish Envoy's note to the Servian Government on the question of the return of the Albanian refugees, I have the honour further to transmit herewith copies of M. Ristitch's reply and of Sermed Effendi's rejoinder thereto.

Your Lordship will no doubt observe the contrast between the offensively aggressive language adopted by M. Ristitch in his communication and the conciliatory terms in which Sermed Effendi expresses, in return, his satisfaction at the assurances given him that the Servian Government have taken the subject into their serious consideration, whilst he leaves entirely unnoticed the series of personal attacks levelled at him.

After making every possible allowance for the natural susceptibilities of a small and weak State, especially towards the Power whose vassal it was but a few months ago, I trust your Lordship will agree with me in considering that M. Ristitch was in no way justified in assuming the attitude he has taken up towards the Turkish Representative in this correspondence, and I have accordingly lost no time in expressing to him unofficially the painful impression it has caused me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 32.

M. Ristitch to Sermed Effendi.

M. le Ministre, *Belgrade, le* 8 *Août,* 1879.

J'AI reçu la note que votre Excellence a cru devoir m'adresser à la date du 1/13 Août courant, relativement aux Albanais qui ont émigré des contrées annexées à la Serbie par le Traité de Berlin.

Les mesures que le Gouvernement Princier compte prendre à ce sujet feront l'objet d'une communication que je ne manquerai pas de faire parvenir à la Sublime Porte en réponse à la note de votre Excellence. Pour le moment je dois me borner à vous assurer que la conduite de cette population, turbulente et agressive, forme l'objet des sérieuses préoccupations du Gouvernement Princier, et qu'il y apporte la plus grande attention.

En attendant, je ne saurais laisser sans observations certains passages de la note de votre Excellence, lesquels, à mon avis, n'auraient pas dû y trouver place; j'aime à croire que votre intention ne pouvait être d'irriter des relations à peine rétablies. Tel est pourtant l'effet que produit cette note, lorsque préjugeant la question, elle prétend que l'effervescence observée chez les populations Albanaises a pour cause les mesures prises par le Gouvernement de Son Altesse.

J'ai eu déjà l'occasion de dire à votre Excellence que cette question se traite à Constantinople.

Or, vous étiez d'autant moins fondé à formuler une accusation contre le Gouvernement Princier que c'est à Constantinople qu'ont été exposées les causes qui ont amené l'état des choses actuel et qui font retomber toute le responsabilité sur le Gouvernement Ottoman.

Je ne puis non plus admettre, M. le Ministre, que votre Excellence porte la parole comme elle le fait, au nom des Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, ces Puissances ayant toutes accrédité leurs Représentants auprès de Son Altesse le Prince de Serbie.

Votre Excellence affirme que le Gouvernement Princier "refuserait de s'élever à la vraie hauteur que comporte la situation." Si votre Excellence avait pris en considération que le Gouvernement Princier n'a point été mis en demeure d'accorder ni de refuser quoi que ce soit à ce sujet, elle se serait sans doute abstenue d'avancer une pareille affirmation. Elle aurait d'autant plus hésité à le faire qu'elle ne devait pas supposer un seul instant que j'admettrai un langage aussi peu usité dans les relations entre des pays se trouvant en état de paix.

Votre Excellence a trop d'expérience pour ignorer qu'il faudrait avoir acquis

des titres particuliers pour se croire autorisé à éclairer le Gouvernement Princier sur ses intérêts intimes et pour justifier le ton dont se sert votre Excellence.

C'est pourquoi, sans préjuger le fond de la question qui fait l'objet de la note de votre Excellence, je ne puis lui cacher la pénible impression qu'a produit sur nous la manière dont elle a cru devoir s'acquitter des ordres de son Gouvernement.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) J. RISTITCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 32.

Sermed Effendi to M. Ristitch.

Belgrade, le $\frac{8}{21}$ Août, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

J'AI l'honneur de prendre acte de la déclaration contenue dans la lettre de votre Excellence en date du $\frac{6}{18}$ Août, suivant laquelle le Gouvernement Princier compte prendre des mesures sérieuses pour résoudre, d'une manière satisfaisante, la question des Albanais. Je puis assurer votre Excellence que l'exécution et la mise en pratique de ces mesures auront pour résultat certain de resserrer davantage les liens d'amitié qui unissent si heureusement le Gouvernement Impérial avec le Gouvernement de Son Altesse.

Je suis d'autant plus heureux d'apprendre cette résolution du Gouvernement de Son Altesse au sujet de la présente difficulté, que je me suis toujours fait l'avocat convaincu d'une entente cordiale sur toutes les questions qui peuvent intéresser à la fois le Gouvernement Impérial et le Gouvernement Princier.

J'ai été, toutefois, péniblement surpris de lire dans la seconde partie de cette même lettre quelques observations que votre Excellence s'est cru justifiée d'adresser directement à ma personne—observations qui ont pour base et pour origine une série de malentendus. Je ne puis suivre votre Excellence sur le terrain qu'elle a cru, à mon grand regret, devoir choisir. Votre Excellence me donnera bientôt communication des résolutions du Gouvernement Princier sur le sort de cette population Albanaise, si guerrière, il est vrai, mais en même temps si malheureuse et si désespérée. J'ai l'honneur de féliciter le Gouvernement de Son Altesse de sa résolution de prendre bientôt des mesures efficaces pour résoudre une question qui a vivement ému le Gouvernement Impérial et les Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) SERMED.

No. 33.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 255. Private and Confidential.)

Belgrade, August 23, 1879.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 252 of yesterday's date, inclosing the correspondence which has passed between M. Ristitch and Sermed Effendi on the question of the return of the Albanian refugees, I took the occasion to mention to your Lordship that I had unofficially expressed to the former the painful impression his note had caused me. M. Ristitch left early this morning for Nisch, and was consequently so overwhelmed with business yesterday that he was unable to see me. I therefore wrote to him a private and confidential letter, the copy of which I venture to submit herewith to your Lordship.

Under this unofficial form I stated to his Excellency, in plain terms, the very unfavourable view I was compelled to take of his conduct in this matter, the extremely serious consequences it might entail as regards both the personal position of Sermed Effendi and the existing friendly relations between Servia and Turkey, and the bad impression it would probably produce on the majority of the great Powers, and I finally offered him any good offices to attenuate its effects.

As the matter must very shortly come under the notice of the Porte, I intend to place Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in possession of the whole correspondence, including the private and confidential communication referred to in this despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Mr. Gould to M. Ristitch.

(Confidentielle et Privée.)

Belgrade, le $\frac{12}{24}$ Août, 1879.

M. le Président du Conseil,

J'AURAIS très-vivement désiré avoir un moment d'entretien avec votre Excellence avant votre départ pour Nisch, mais le temps est si court, et je vous sais tellement accablé de travail, que je crains devoir renoncer à cet espoir. Un grave incident de la dernière heure s'est cependant produit qui peut entraîner des conséquences si fâcheuses, non-seulement pour les bonnes relations à peine rétablies entre le Gouvernement Princier et la Sublime Porte, mais sous d'autres rapports non moins importants que, mu par l'intérêt profond que je porte à tout ce qui concerne la Principauté, je croirais manquer à mon devoir si je ne communiquais dès à présent sous cette forme, privée et confidentielle, la pénible impression qu'il a produit sur moi, et qu'il produira de même, je crains, sur le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté. L'Envoyé Ottoman a bien voulu me remettre entre les mains la note qu'il a eu l'honneur de vous adresser, sous la date du $\frac{4}{16}$ courant, demandant, au nom de son Gouvernement, comme le droit lui en revenait, d'après le Traité de Berlin, la libre rentrée dans leurs foyers des Albanais, qui ont dû les abandonner à la suite des événements de la dernière guerre, demande à laquelle s'associe pleinement, ainsi que votre Excellence le sait, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté aussi bien que la presque totalité des Puissances Signataires. Il m'a soumis, en même temps, la note de votre Excellence en date du $\frac{8}{20}$ courant, et de sa réponse à cette dernière du $\frac{9}{21}$ courant.

Je n'ai pas une connaissance assez approfondie de la langue Française pour m'aventurer dans une discussion de la valeur précise des termes employés dans la première note de M. l'Envoyé de Turquie. Je me bornerai à dire qu'à mon avis personnel elle ne contient que des expressions que la gravité du sujet comporte, et à affirmer ce que je sais de source certaine, que quelles que soient les fautes de rédaction qu'on puisse y découvrir elle n'a été écrite avec aucune intention blessante, soit à l'adresse du Gouvernement Princier, soit à l'adresse de votre Excellence.

Malheureusement, dans votre réponse, écrite sous une fausse impression, votre Excellence, tout en faisant des réserves sur le fond de la question, s'est servi d'un langage à l'adresse de M. le Représentant Ottoman que je ne saurais qualifier, tellement il est inconnu dans les pièces diplomatiques que j'ai eu occasion de voir jusqu'à ce jour. Sur mes conseils il n'a dans son accusé de réception fait que constater la satisfaction qu'il éprouvait d'apprendre que le Gouvernement Princier s'occupait sérieusement de faire droit aux justes réclamations de la Sublime Porte à l'égard des Albanais expulsés des districts récemment annexés à la Serbie, en abandonnant complétement à votre Excellence le terrain sur tous les autres points. Malgré les dispositions éminemment conciliantes dont a fait preuve M. l'Envoyé de Turquie, il reste à savoir comment l'incident sera apprécié par la Porte.

Elle peut y voir une intention marquée de la part du Gouvernement Princier de vouloir pour une raison occulte ou l'autre amener une rupture des relations amicales entre les deux pays, ou simplement une tentative pour se débarrasser de la personne de son Représentant près la Cour Serbe, soit à cause de ses antécédents comme Consul-Général Ottoman à Pesth durant la dernière guerre, soit à cause de l'activité qu'il déploie en cherchant à sauvegarder les intérêts des ses nationaux dans la Principauté.

Quant à mon Gouvernement, je ne tromperai beaucoup s'il ne sent pas très-péniblement impressionné par cette démarche, et s'il n'y verra une tendance de la part du Gouvernement Princier à repousser indirectement la solution de la question du traitement équitable et conforme au Traité de Berlin de toutes les populations Musulmanes en Serbie, qui a déjà fait l'objet de ses plus sérieuses remontrances. Pour toutes ces considérations je ne puis que déplorer profondément l'incident auquel se réfère cette lettre, et qui n'a pu surgir, je suis convaincu, que d'un pur malentendu que votre Excellence doit regretter à l'heure qu'il est. Je m'estimerais donc heureux d'en atténuer la portée en tant qu'il dépend de moi pourvu que l'occasion m'en soit fournie. Votre Excellence ne m'en voudra certes pas de la franchise avec laquelle je me suis exprimé, car elle est uniquement née de la sympathie personnelle que j'éprouve pour votre Excellence, et de l'intérêt sincère que je porte à votre pays.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) G. F. GOULD.

No. 34.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 257.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 24, 1879.

BARON HERBERT, the Austro-Hungarian Minister Resident, informs me that he had a long interview with M. Ristich whilst the latter was on his way to Nisch, and that his Excellency had repeated to him the assurances he had often given me of his sincere desire to bring the question of the return to Servia of the Albanian refugees to a prompt and satisfactory settlement, that being one of the chief objects he had in view in proceeding to Nisch to see Prince Milan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 35.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 189.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August* 22, 1879.

FROM information received here it would appear that the visit of the Roumanian Foreign Minister, M. Boeresco, to M. Waddington at Paris is likely to determine the nature of the projects of the laws which this Government will submit to the Chambers for solving definitely the Jewish question.

From Sir John Walsham's telegram to your Lordship of the 20th instant, and from intelligence received here from M. Boeresco, it appears that this gentleman is sanguine in the expectation that he will succeed in gaining M. Waddington's approbation for his proposals.

As these differ from those which were discussed by M. Stourdza at Berlin during his recent visit, and which, it is believed, were approved at the Imperial Chancery there, and as it further appears from a despatch addressed to your Lordship by Lord Lyons on the 23rd July that they were likewise accepted by M. Waddington, it remains to be seen to which of these two proposals preference will be ultimately given by the French Government.

Of course the last one recommended by M. Boeresco has probably a better chance of being accepted by the Roumanian Chambers.

But it appears to me extremely desirable, with a view to avoid further complications, that both M. Boeresco and likewise his colleagues here, should be distinctly informed which of these two plans is preferred by the Powers, unless it is considered that neither of them is very acceptable, but that under existing circumstances the Powers interested intend to be satisfied with whichever of the two receives legislative sanction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 36.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 190.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August* 22, 1879.

OPINION, even in the Cabinet here, is divided between the two proposals on the Jewish question which are at this moment under the consideration of the French Government.

A few of the Ministers appear still prepared to recommend to the Chambers the proposals discussed by way of a compromise by the Finance Minister at Berlin.

According to these, whilst the principle of religious inequality would be removed from Article 7 of the Constitution, certain categories of native indigenous Jews would, *ipso facto*, be recognized as Roumanian citizens, viz., such as had proved by certain acts of theirs their desire of enjoying such a principle, i.e., had served in the army, been trained in native schools, &c.

The proposal of M. Boeresco differs from the above in substituting nominal lists of individuals of the Jewish religion who would acquire by the promulgation of such law the rights of Roumanian nationality.

The former of these proposals is very similar to the one which failed to secure the majority of votes in the Committee selected to report on this very question two months ago, a vote which occasioned the resignation of the Bratiano Ministry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 37.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 191.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August* 22, 1879.

IN addition to the two plans for solving the Jewish difficulty mentioned in my previous despatch No. 190, there is, I am assured, a third one, strange to say, still less satisfactory than either of these, and which is to be brought in by the Opposition.

Your Lordship will, I daresay, remember that M. Bratiano's former Administration had not brought forward any specific law on this question, but had been waiting for the Chambers to pronounce an opinion as to the best mode of solving the difficulty.

The present Government propose, I believe, to draft a regular law for amending the Constitution, as soon as M. Boeresco returns from his tour, and to submit it to the Chambers as the result of their communications with the Great Powers, demanding its adoption as a vote of confidence.

The Bill, which is to be brought in by the Opposition, will, it is supposed, enact, the repeal of the obnoxious clause of Article 7 of the Constitution, but admit only individual naturalization by Parliament as the only rule for admission to Roumanian nationality, taking no cognizance of any categories or individuals at present.

It is not likely that so illiberal a law will secure the requisite two-thirds of votes in the face of the urgency of the Powers, but should the Ministerial proposals be equally rejected by not securing sufficient support in both Chambers it is difficult to predict what would happen next as neither a change of Ministers nor a fresh appeal to the electors appear at present conducive to a more satisfactory solution of this perplexing problem.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 38.

M. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 193.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August* 22, 1879.

THE British Vice-Consul at Craiova reports, in reply to my inquiries, that according to information gathered by him from Widdin, the demolition of the fort near the river had commenced, and that some of the stones thus removed were being employed for paving purposes in the town, but owing to constant interruptions, not much progress had been made as yet with the razing of the fortifications at Widdin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 39.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 195.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August* 25, 1879.

AS I had the honour of reporting to your Lordship by telegraph yesterday, the two Chambers met *pro formâ* on Saturday, 23rd instant; there were only seventy-three

Deputies present, as a great many are detained on their estates by their agricultural pursuits.

For revising the Constitution two-thirds of the total number of members is required, so that I believe the presence of 105 Deputies is necessary to make up a quorum.

An adjournment till Tuesday, 2nd September, was proposed by a private Member, and, having been consented to by the Ministers present, was adopted by the House.

It is expected that both the Prime Minister, M. Bratiano, who is at the Springs at Marienbad, and M. Boerescо, will be back by the end of this month, and that work will begin in earnest on the 2nd September.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 40.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.

(No. 196.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August* 25, 1879.

IN the month of January the Porte concluded a Convention with Roumania for settling the claims of this Government for the subsistence of the Turkish prisoners during the war, and up to the time of their liberation.

In accordance with that agreement a sum of 500,000 fr. has just become due to Roumania, whilst further payments are stipulated for from Turkey in instalments during the next seven years.

I am informed that the Turkish Minister has been instructed by the Porte to claim 10,000,000 piastres as arrears of tribute due by the Principality up to the 13th July, 1878, as the date when its independence was admitted by Treaty, and it is evident that in this way the Porte intends declining effecting any of the payments under the Convention above referred to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 41.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 197.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August* 25, 1879.

THE visit of M. Boerescо to the Russian capital has been the subject of much comment here; it is related that this Minister was reproached in official circles for the attitude his country had adopted towards Russia since the termination of the war, and also for the desire it has manifested of securing Arab-Tabia within its limits; it is stated that even the Emperor himself spoke strongly to him of his dissatisfaction with the conduct of Roumania.

All this could have been anticipated, and the perseverance which M. Boerescо displayed in his desire to approach the Czar shows that there are still public men here who look upon Russia as a possible ally for this country.

It would be well if these symptoms did not escape the attention of the Court of Vienna; they are too prone to believe there that the estrangement of Roumania from Russia is decisive and irrevocable; it may become so, but Austria is far too apathetic and indifferent as yet to Russian intrigues here.

M. Boerescо has been looked upon at Vienna as exclusively Austrian in his sympathies and professions; this last act of his may, it is to be hoped, make that Government more watchful of its interests at Bucharest in future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 42.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 198.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August* 26, 1879.

INFORMATION has been received here that M. Boerescо is expected to have the honour of an interview with your Lordship at the Chalet Cecil on this day.

Somehow or other an opinion has become accredited here, in the highest official circles, that the Foreign Minister, after having started with the conviction that anything beyond nominal lists of Jews to be naturalized could never be approved by the Parliament of his country, has suddenly veered round, and is now disposed to lend a favourable ear to very extensive proposals in favour of indigenous Jews made by M. Waddington and to be made by your Lordship.

This may not be true, but should it prove to be the case it is very much to be feared that his colleagues would not accept to share M. Boerescо's responsibility, and would decline endorsing any extensive engagements on his part, thus anticipating their rejection by the Chambers.

With reference to this, it may be right for me to draw your Lordship's attention to an incident which happened also on the Jewish question in the year 1869, when M. Boerescо had an interview at the Foreign Office with the late Lord Clarendon, and made certain promises there; this led to a very acrimonious discussion at Bucharest on his return, and the Jews unfortunately derived but little benefit. This correspondence is to be found in the Papers presented to Parliament in 1877, No. 1 (Nos. 310, 333, 339, 340, 341, and 346).

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 43.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 72.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 23, 1879.

IN amplification of my telegram No. 71 of this date, I have the honour, in accordance with the request contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 60, to offer the following remarks in respect of the subject matter contained in the Earl of Dufferin's despatches Nos. 347 and 365, and of the Russian map which formed an inclosure in the latter despatch.

Your Lordship having been good enough to send me a duplicate copy of the map in question, I have been enabled to return one of the copies, on which I have shown with a blue-dotted line the frontier agreed upon by the Russo-Turkish Commission before my arrival, being the same frontier as is shown on the tracings which I had the honour to forward to your Lordship in my despatches Nos. 28 and 38 of the 30th April and 22nd May respectively.

Between this blue-dotted line and the line put forward on the Russian map—a line which I have never before seen, but which I have the authority of the Turkish Commissioner to say is false—there is, as your Lordship will perceive, a very important and significant difference, to an explanation of which I now propose to address myself, omitting, as irrevelant to the subject of the present despatch, all remarks with regard to any discrepancy in the upper portion of the map to the west of Bardouz.

From your Lordship telegram No. 11 of the 12th August, transmitting the substance of a telegram from Lord Dufferin with reference to an interview on the 9th between his Lordship and M. de Giers, I gather that the latter explains the important variation between his first and his second map (produced for the first time at that interview) by a statement to the effect that the line on the first map had been laid down from description.

Passing over the inherent improbability that the Russian Commissioner would have trusted to a mere written description for the purpose of conveying to his Government a clear conception of the somewhat intricate points at issue, any more than that the Russian Government would have been satisfied with such an inadequate source of information, I hope to be able to show to your Lordship that there is too

much bias in the hand that drew the line of frontier on what may be called the first Russian map to admit of the explanation that it was traced in error.*

It is a curious but highly significant fact, as a glance at the map will show, that both the frontier traced by the Russians and Turks before my arrival and the frontier of the first Russian map, pass through the important point "Y" (see my despatch No. 38 on the importance of this point). Bearing this fact in mind, and remembering that on the retention of this point "Y" within the future Turkish frontier depends to an important degree the effective defence of the Ziwin position, it seems reasonable to infer that the motive for putting forward this pseudo-frontier at St. Petersburgh, and alleging up to so late a period as the last days of July that this pseudo-frontier was the one traced by the Russo-Turkish Commission in the previous April, must be sought in an endeavour on the part of the Russians to gain in the negotiations at St. Petersburgh by a different line of attack what they had failed to achieve at Constantinople, viz., to include within their frontier the important point "Y."

But, as this map is now superseded by a second Russian map, I presume that this line of attack, if it ever existed, has been abandoned. Nothing further need be said, therefore, beyond that its acceptance by Great Britain and Turkey would be impossible, as it is detrimental to their interests.

I confess that I can only see in these proceedings a desire on the part of the Russians to avoid an early settlement of the pending frontier question. The mode of procedure at St. Petersburgh finds a parallel here. Having a bad case, the Russians seek to put off the decision as long as possible by shifting the ground of discussion; by pleading absence of information or of instructions, as the case may be; by St. Petersburgh neglecting to inform Constantinople of the different phases of the negotiations as they arise, and *vice versâ*; by conciliating action accompanied by passive delay in one place, and by wearing an outward appearance of impatience, using blustering threats, yet with the same passive resistance at the other; in the hope, probably, that the chapter of accidents may bring something to their advantage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 44.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 47.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 25, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship of the progress made by the Commission of which I am a member.

The whole of the Russian maps of the country through which runs the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia from the Black Sea to the River Maritza are now available for the Commission, and the frontier is in process of being traced on them and the Diplomatic Act defining the frontier is in course of preparation.

The sheet adjoining the Maritza and containing a portion of the Bestepe Dagh is also in the hands of the Commission; a survey made on the ground from thence to Adacali on the River Arda completes the series as far as that river.

As stated by me in previous despatches the survey of the country from Adacali to Cadir-Tépé was entrusted by the Commission to a party of Russian topographers. We had been led to hope, by Colonel Philippoff and his assistant, Lieutenant-Colonel Commeroff, that this work would have been completed within three to four weeks of our return to Constantinople from the Rhodope Mountains, and forwarded without delay.

In my despatch No. 46 of the 18th instant, I had the honour to inform your Lordship, that Colonel Philippoff had on the 18th instant declared to the Commission that the work on the ground would not be completed until the 22nd September, but no guarantees was given that the work would then be forwarded direct to Constantinople; and to me, and I believe to my colleagues, there appeared a strong probability that the surveys would first be sent to Rustchuk or St. Petersburgh, in order that they might be verified and put together by the Russian Topographical Department previous to their being submitted to the Commission.

* I must state that the line of frontier on the first map, from the point X near Mount Chorham-bashi in an easterly direction towards a point south of Medjingert, is the line the Russians would like to obtain, as I have seen that identical line on the Russian Commissioner's private map.

In consequence I expressed an opinion to your Lordship that the surveys might be dispensed with where natural features existed of which there could be no doubt.

I have since seriously discussed with my colleagues on the feasibility of dispensing with the maps, and was prepared to telegraph to Lieutenant de Wolski, R.E., at present employed with Major Ardagh on work of the Bulgarian Commission, to halt at Philippopoli until joined by myself, when we might together have surveyed a small portion of the frontier-line which leaves the watershed near Kara-Kolas Dagh and takes a direction south-east to gain the River Arda.

After careful consideration I was of opinion that a survey of this small tract of country was necessary.

I found, however, that all my colleagues, including the Representatives of Turkey, though personally perhaps holding the same opinions as myself, were unable to give me their support without special instructions from their respective Governments, as it is deemed necessary that a survey of the entire line should be attached to the final Diplomatic Act defining the frontier.

I therefore, on the 23rd instant, demanded of Colonel Philippoff to state, for the information of the Commission, whether the surveys, which he declared would be completed on the 22nd September, would on that date be at once dispatched to Constantinople for the use of the Commission; he replied in the affirmative, further stating that it will not be necessary for these surveys to be sent to Rustchuk or St. Petersburgh to be verified before being laid before the Commission.

All Protocols to the 23rd instant inclusive have been signed, and the drawing up of the Diplomatic Act defining the frontier is progressing, and therefore allowing a week or ten days for the reproduction of the surveys yet to be received, the work of the Commission should be terminated early in October.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major,*
93rd Highlanders.

No. 45.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August 25, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of Protocols Nos. 23, 24, and 25 of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Protocole No. 23.—*Séance tenue à Thérapia, à l'Hôtel d'Angleterre, le* 29 *Juillet*, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp,
M. le Capitaine Podstawski.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Capitaine Schmeur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha,
Simon Effendi (Papasian),
Le Commandant Hassan Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure et demie.

Le Protocole No. 22 est lu et adopté.

M. le Commandant Lemoyne demande des explications au Colonel de Bogolubow au sujet d'une phrase prononcée par lui à la dernière séance et relatée au procès-verbal. Le Commissaire de Russie avait dit n'avoir pour le moment aucune communication à faire à la Commission à propos de Silistrie. Le Commissaire Français désirerait savoir si les instructions reçues par son collègue lui prescrivent de soulever une nouvelle discussion de la question au sein de la Commission, parce que mieux vaudrait dans ce cas le faire immédiatement que d'attendre le moment où la Commission se préparerait à clore ses travaux.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow déclare n'être pas au courant des négociations engagées par son Gouvernement avec les autres Cabinets. Il se trouve donc dans l'impossibilité de répondre catégoriquement à la question posée.

Cet incident étant clos, M. le Colonel Bogolubow a la parole pour une communication à faire à la Commission. Il lit la dépêche suivante que lui a adressée le Général Jarnefelt, à la date du $\frac{1}{13}$ Juillet:—

"Malgré les certificats présentés par les topographes, le Caïmacam de Tsarevoselo s'oppose aux travaux en objectant qu'il n'a pas d'ordre des autorités. Le Pacha d'Égri-Palanka nous fait attendre sa permission; nous perdons beaucoup de temps sans pouvoir achever le levé de la frontière. Veuillez me communiquer vos mesures."

Cette dépêche, aux yeux du Commissaire Russe, justifie d'une façon éclatante les réserves qu'il avait cru devoir faire et maintenir dans les deux dernières séances malgré les instances de ses collègues. Elle indique une situation grave à laquelle il se déclare impuissant à apporter un remède, si la Commission, mue par son désir ardent d'obtenir dans le plus bref délai possible les levers Russes, n'entreprend elle-même une démarche auprès du Gouvernement Ottoman. Le Commissaire de Russie explique d'ailleurs que, d'après la teneur de la dépêche précitée, l'opposition du Caïmacam de Tsarevoselo ne serait pas fondée sur des incursions des topographes Russes au-delà des limites indiquées par leurs sauf-conduits.

Le Président, au nom de la Commission, invite son Excellence Tahir Pacha à faire auprès de la Sublime Porte les démarches les plus instantes, pour mettre fin à un pareil état de choses.

Le Commissaire Ottoman déclare qu'il télégraphie aux Commandants des forces Ottomanes à Égri-Palanka et à Djouma, et qu'il demandera à la Sublime Porte de renouveler d'une façon plus explicite les ordres précédemment donnés par elle.

M. le Général Hamley apprend à ses collègues que les officiers Anglais, délégués par la Commission sur les confins de la Macédoine, sont partis le 28 Juillet à bord d'un navire de guerre Anglais, qui les débarquera à Salonique.

M. le Colonel Orero remercie le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne des dispositions prises par lui en vue d'accélérer la marche des travaux de la Commission.

On passe ensuite à la discussion de la frontière nord de la Bulgarie.

M. le Major Comte Wedel se déclare autorisé à traiter les questions de principe, mais être sans instructions pour fixer le thalweg du Danube. La Commission décide qu'il y a lieu, en conséquence, de scinder la question.

Passant au vote sur le principe, la Commission, d'un avis unanime, décide qu'il y a lieu de prendre pour frontière nord de la Bulgarie le thalweg, au lieu de la rive droite du Danube, indiquée dans le texte du Traité.

Puis une discussion s'ouvre sur l'application du principe: *M. le Colonel Bogolubow* soutient qu'il convient de fixer le thalweg au moyen de cartes détaillées; *M. le Commandant Lemoyne*, qu'il suffit d'insérer dans l'instrument diplomatique, que l'on prend pour limite le thalweg tel qu'il existait comme frontière entre la Roumanie et la Turquie. L'un dit que la Commission a le devoir de supprimer autant que possible les sources de conflit entre les deux Principautés, et d'indiquer à chacune d'elles les îlots et attérissements qui lui appartiennent. L'autre remarque que la Commission n'a pas à faire acte d'arbitre, qu'elle n'a pas qualité pour juger les contestations qui pouvaient être pendantes avant la guerre entre la Turquie et la Roumanie, qu'il appartiendrait à l'Europe seule de dépouiller la Roumanie d'une partie de son territoire, si elle se trouvait jouir d'une île à droite du thalweg, et qu'il faudrait tout au moins, en vue de pareilles éventualités, entendre les Représentants de la Roumanie.

La Commission surseoit à se prononcer entre les deux propositions, jusqu'au moment où le Commissaire Allemand sera en mesure de prendre part au vote.

Le Président met ensuite en discussion les propositions du Commissaire Français pour la fixation de la frontière entre la Mer Noire et la Passe de Verbitza. Quelques observations de détail sont présentées par différents Commissaires et sont prises en considération par la Commission dans la rédaction finalement adoptée. A propos de la Passe de Dobral, son Excellence Tahir Pacha propose d'englober dans Roumélie un certain mamelon à l'ouest de la passe; *M. le Colonel Bogobulow* demande, au contraire, que la frontière ne s'écarte pas de la ligne de partage; mais la première de ces propositions ayant été repoussée par 5 voix contre 2—celle du Commissaire de Grande Bretagne et du Commissaire Ottoman, et la seconde retirée par son auteur, la Commission adopte à l'unanimité le tracé proposé par le Commissaire de France pour la Passe de Dobral.

La Commission passe ensuite au vote sur l'ensemble de l'Article 3 de l'instrument diplomatique réglant la frontière de la Bulgarie entre le Cadir-Tépé et la Mer Noire, et elle adopte à l'unanimité le tracé suivant:

Au sud, la frontière de Bulgarie remonte depuis son embouchure dans la Mer Noire, le thalweg du Tchivté-Déré, laissant à la Bulgarie les villages de Hodjakioi, Aïvadjik, Djéterli, et Goulitza (Sudzuluk), et à la Roumélie Orientale ceux de Gések, Jenikioj, et Karnamdja.

De la tête de ce thalweg à 2,500 mètres sud-est de Belibe, elle descend, par un petit ravin orienté de l'est à l'ouest, dans le Dérmen-Déré dont elle suit le cours jusqu'au coude, où ce ruisseau, coulant précédemment du sud-est au nord-ouest, se redresse vers le nord. La frontière se prolonge ensuite par une suite de ravins et de cols orientés dans une direction générale du sud-sud-est au nord-nord-ouest, entre le Balaban-Déré et le Délédji-Déré, jusqu'au pied du Pilav-Tépé; elle monte, toujours dans la même direction, sur le sommet de cette montagne, elle en suit la crête et redescend directement au Déli-Kamtchik, qu'elle coupe en un point situé à 2,850 mètres en amont et à l'ouest de Tchengi, à 1,825 mètres en aval et au nord-est de Hadji-Mahalé. Le village de Belibe et les ruines de Koulalik restent ainsi à la Bulgarie, les villages de Tchovankioj, Kaïcak-Mahalé, et Kosik, à la Roumélie Orientale.

De la rive gauche du Déli-Kamtchik, et par l'arête rocheuse qui aboutit au point indiqué précédemment, la frontière monte sur la crête du Kapi-Baïr. Elle se prolonge alors sur la ligne de partage entre les eaux du Déli-Kamtchik et du Bouyouk-Kamtchik, laissant à la Bulgarie les villages de Aïdos-Bredja, Kaïardi, Lopouchna, Bektchi, et à la Roumélie Orientale ceux de Hadji-Mahalé, Tikenlik, Dokhankioj, Karaveliler, Dérékioj, et Aïvadjik. Elle suit ensuite le Karnabad-Balkan entre Baïram-Déré et Kérémetli, jusque près du chemin qui mène de Tchali-Kavak dans

l'Ak-Déré à Kamtchi-Mahalé. La terrasse s'étendant jusqu'à 500 mètres au nord du col que traverse ce chemin, et qui porte le nom de passe de Dobrat reste à la Roumélie Orientale; puis la frontière rejoint, au nord d'une batterie abandonnée, la crête du Débélitch-Balkan, et se prolonge sur la ligne de partage des eaux par Tioula-Baïr, Mominar-Baïr, et Tépékioch, jusqu'à ce qu'elle rencontre la route de Verbitza à Sungurlar et Jousoufiou. De là et sur un parcours d'environ trois kilomètres la frontière s'écarte de la ligne de partage pour suivre le bord oriental de la dite route, partout où cette route se développe sur le versant est d'une série de petits mamelons. Elle traverse la route à l'embranchement d'un sentier qui mène directement à une karaouda ruinée, sise a 1 kilom. au nord-ouest-ouest, et court alors par la ligne de faîte dénommée Prisevica et Asap-Balkan sur la Carte Autrichienne.

A 2,600 mètres à l'est-nord-est de la Passe de Kotel, la ligne-frontière rencontre un petit plateau dont elle contourne sur le versant nord la crête extérieure, puis par la ligne de partage et par un coude à angle droit elle atteint à 500 mètres de ce coude la tête d'un ravin profond, où la route de Kotel à Osman-Bazar descend, en pente raide; de là elle gagne le tournant voisin de la route, la traverse, en suit le bord occidental pendant 1 kilom., s'en détache à la tête d'un autre ravin escarpé, pour contourner le Koulé-Tépé, longe le nouveau le bord extérieur de la route jusqu'à l'ensellement du col, et après avoir suivi la crête militaire de façon à laisser successivement à la Roumélie les sommets des trois hauteurs situées à l'ouest de la passe, reprend à 2½ kilom. de cette passe la ligne de faîte du Kazan-Balkan.

A 9 kilom. à l'ouest de la Passe de Kotel la frontière se confond, dans la chaîne principale des Balkans, avec la grande ligne de partage, généralement orientée de l'est à l'ouest, qui sépare les eaux des affluents du Danube au nord, et celles qui, au sud, se rendent dans la Mer Noire par les sources du Déli-Kamtchik, et bientôt après dans la Mer Egée par les vallées de la Toundja, de la Strema (Giopsou-Déré), et de la Topolnitza. Elle ne s'en écarte sur le versant nord que dans les endroits désignés ci-après:—

Passe de Démir-Kapou.—Crête militaire depuis le point où la route escarpée montant de Stara-Ricka (à la Bulgarie) atteint cette crête, jusqu'à 825 mètres à l'ouest du point où elle descend sur Slivno (à la Roumélie Orientale). Puis, ligne de partage par Zoupantzi-Mesari, Biéla Krava, Tchoumourna (727).

Passe de Tzarditza.—Crête militaire marquée par un escarpement rocheux depuis le mamelon situé à 700 mètres à l'est du grand tournant (514) de la route, jusqu'au col situé à 1,500 mètres à l'ouest de ce tournant; la frontière coupe la route à 150 mètres en avant et au-dessous du tournant.

Passe de Hain-Boghaz.—A partir d'un mamelon sis à 1,300 mètres nord-est du col (321) et 1,600 mètres est de Porovtzi, ligne tracée à 120 mètres parallèlement à la crête du contrefort qui rattache à la ligne de partage le plateau dominant Botchkovtzi situé au nord, Biéjivtzi et Ivanovtzi à l'ouest, contournant ce plateau par sa crête militaire et courant de nouveau parallèlement à la ligne de faîte, en sens contraire et à la même distance moyenne de 120 mètres, jusqu'après le mamelon sis à 1,500 mètres à l'ouest de la passe. Puis grande ligne de partage par le point 445·3 et le sommet de Mrazietz.

Passe de Traïna.—Crête militaire depuis un point situé à 375 mètres au sud-est du col marqué par le tournant le plus aigu de la route, jusqu'au col sis au sud-est des mines de charbon, de manière à laisser à la Roumélie Orientale la Gora Krestietz (480) au nord et les trois mamelons au sud du grand tournant de la route, avec un rayon de 150 mètres environ autour de ces divers sommets; la frontière coupe ainsi la route à 350 mètres au nord-ouest du grand coude précité. Puis, grande ligne de partage par la Gora Bolgarka, Bidek, Tchetchoumek, Attovo-Padalo, Bouzloudja, Biéli Kladenitzi, Tirsovo (Tirsiouvitz).

Passe de Chipka.—Crête militaire depuis un point situé à 300 mètres au sud de Démir-Tépé, pour donner à la Roumélie Orientale ce sommet, celui de Demievitz et la terrasse au-dessous du Mont Sveti-Nicolaï; bord occidental de cette terrasse jusqu'à 20 mètres de la route; ligne tracée à 20 mètres parallèlement au bord extérieur de cette route en laissant toutefois à la Bulgarie les deux cimetières Russes qui se trouvent dans le ravin à l'est; arc de cercle de 40 mètres de rayon autour du sommet de Ouzoun-Kouch; ligne revenant parallèlement à la route, à l'ouest et à 20 mètres du bord jusqu'à hauteur du Mont Chipka (Krouglaja-Batareja; crête militaire à une distance moyenne de 100 mètres au-dessous de la ligne de partage, laissant à la Roumélie Orientale les sommets de Bachenitza, Maliek, et Lizain, jusqu'à 600 mètres au nord de Lizain Gora. Puis grande ligne de partage des eaux par le col

de la Vetropolska-Poljana, les sommets de Kourita, de Malobiska-Poljana, Tchervena-Lovka, Deveidjaskaja-Poljana, Biéli-Kladinietz, la Passe de Realita, la Gora Maragedik, le point trigonométrique 1,113, la Gora Journroukizal, la Gora Krivianiti (1,061), le Gladi-Dol et l'Ostra-Mogila entre lesquels passe le sentier conduisant du Czerni-Osem à Karlovo, l'Amboritza (1,000), le point 811, près du lac Sari-Gœl qui reste à la Roumélie Orientale, le Balkan Ventzeti, les points 740, 739, 799, et le signal trigonométrique 774.

Passe de Trojan.—Crête militaire depuis le signal 774 jusqu'à un petit col situé à 1,150 mètres à l'ouest du point où le chemin franchit la ligne de faîte. Puis la grande ligne de partage par les points 749 et 755 du Midristi-Balkan, la Gora Kozio-Stienka, Selva, Sovrano-Stiéna, et le Démir-Kapou.

Passe de Ribaritza (Rabunica sur la Carte Autrichienne).—Crête militaire dominant la conque où s'élève le chemin du Biéli-Vid à Rachmanli, depuis Démir-Kapou et au-dessous du Journrouk, jusqu'à 1,500 mètres à l'est du Vejen. Puis la grande ligne de partage par Vejen, Balvan, Pascal (954·2), jusqu'au septième mamelon à 1,750 mètres ouest de ce dernier sommet. (Ce point dénommé Djémina sur le versant nord correspond au point de rebroussement fixé par l'Article II du Traité de Berlin sous le nom de Kosica.)

A Kosica, la ligne-frontière quitte la crête de la chaîne principale du grand Balkan, descend vers le sud par le thalweg de la Gramotnika jusqu'à son confluent avec la Topolnitza, laissant à l'ouest le pic de Monastirski-Kamik, et les ruines du Monastère de Sveti-Elia, et passant entre les villages de Pirtop et Douchantzi, laissés l'un à la Bulgarie, l'autre à la Roumélie Orientale.

Du confluent de la Gramotnika et de la Topolnitza (ou Tuzlu-Déré), elle suit de l'est ou l'ouest vers Petricevo, le cours de cette dernière rivière, jusqu'à 2,050 mètres en amont de son confluent avec le Smolsko-Déré.

De là, la frontière se dirige du sud au nord, sur une longueur de 750 mètres, par un ravin affluent, pour tourner ensuite à angle droit de l'est à l'ouest dans un autre ravin jusqu'au petit col au nord de Kerbova; elle gagne au nord le sommet de Mala-Mogila, tourne de nouveau à l'ouest, laisse le Goulema-Mogila à la Roumélie Orientale, et descend au Mirkovo-Déré par le troisième ravin au nord et en amont du confluent du Mirkovo-Déré et du Smolsko-Déré; elle suit le Mirkovo-Déré jusqu'au dit confluent, remonte ensuite le Smolsko-Déré jusqu'en un point situé en face du second ravin affluent de gauche au-dessus de ce confluent et à 2,200 mètres en amont de celui du Smolsko-Déré avec Topolnitza; puis tournant vers le sud-ouest elle gagne en ligne droite le sommet du mamelon voisin de la Koliba-Bodiat.

La frontière suit alors vers l'ouest et le nord-ouest la ligne de partage des eaux entre les ruisseaux du Smolsko-Déré et de la Kamenitza, jusqu'au sommet situé à 500 mètres au sud-ouest de la Sveta-Petka et à 1 kilom. au sud Voyniak (469,1). En continuant par la ligne de faîte, elle gagne le sommet de Kamenitza-Mera, tourne au sud entre les eaux de la Kamenitza d'une part, de la Ravna et de la Seliska de l'autre, atteint le point 558 (Gora-Ikounita), qui correspond au point marqué 675 sur la Carte Autrichienne et spécifié dans l'Article II du Traité; passe par le point 544 et Raïeva-Glava, se prolonge parallèlement à la Kriva-Ricka, qui reste à la Bulgarie avec le hameau de Bogdanovitz (Bogdina sur la Carte Autrichienne), jusqu'au point 416, et va couper la route de Vakarel à Tchtiman à 520 mètres en aval du confluent de la Kriva-Riéka dans l'Ichtiman-Déré; ce point est marqué par les ruines de la première de deux karaoulas qui gardaient le débouché du bassin supérieur du vallée, dans l'étranglement où se pressent la route, le ruisseau avec la rive droite garnie d'un perré en maçonnerie et la tranchée de chemin de fer en construction; l'emplacement de la karaoula reste a la Roumélie Orientale.

Après avoir traversé perpendiculairement route, ruisseau et chemin de fer, la frontière suit sur la rive droite de l'Ichtiman-Déré la ligne de mamelons constituant la limite sud-est du bassin de la Babina-Riéka, passe à 800 mètres au nord de Chanoha-dovina, coupe à 1,800 mètres au nord d'Adjamza un ravin affluent de la vallée d'Hadjilar (Riéka-Bozalan) et court le long de la ligne de faîte la plus voisine et parallèle à cette vallée.

La frontière atteint ainsi le Sivri-Tépé (482), où elle tourne au sud pour suivre la ligne de partage entre les eaux de l'Iskér et de la Maritza; elle traverse la route de Tcharmouli à Ichtiman au col marqué 404, monte le long d'une croupe jusqu'à la crête du Kara-Baïr, atteint cette crête et un mamelon situé à 900 mètres a l'ouest de Gorni-Kalé, gagne sur la crête, dans la direction est-ouest, le mamelon suivant et en descend directement au col où prend naissance la Tchorna-Riéka. Courant toujours

sur la même ligne de partage, elle remonte au sommet de Velina-Mogela, coupe le chemin secondaire de Novoselo à Gutzal, passe par le Gutzalski-Vrh, cotoye une karaoula ruinée qui gardait la route de Samakov à Banja et dont l'emplacement reste à la Roumélie Orientale, coupe quelques mètres plus bas la dite route, se dirige par la Priova-Ravnisti et la Vitana sur le col où naît le Siganska-Déré, traverse le massif de la Summatica en coupant le chemin direct de Samakov à Radwil et atteint les pentes du Rhodope au col très-étroit où deux petits affluents de la Maritza et de la Velica-Bistritza, la Slivnitza, et la Loucovitza, courant en sens inverse semblent se confondre.

De ce col, par la croupe qui sépare les hautes eaux de la Maritza et de la Velica Bistritza et par un sommet désigné sous le nom de Teham-Kourou la frontière va rejoindre entre Sivri-Tach et Cadir-Tépé, la crête principale de Rhodope marquée sur la Carte Autrichienne comme la limite de l'ancien Sandjak Sophia.

La séance est levée à 4 heures et demie, et la Commission s'ajourne au 2 Août.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) P. PODSTAWSKI.
G MARMIER.
F. VICINO-PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

Protocole No. 24.—Séance tenue à Thérapia, à l'Hôtel d'Angleterre, le 2 Août, 1879.

Etaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp,
M. le Capitaine Podstawski.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero.
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Capitaine Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha.
Simon Effendi (Papasian).
Le Commandant Hassan Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 10 heures 15 minutes.
Le Protocole No. 23 est lu et adopté.

Le Président met en discussion le tracé de frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Macédoine.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp propose de le fixer comme il suit :—

"Du Cadir-Tépé la frontière suit par la chaîne principale du Rhodope, la ligne bien marquée du partage des eaux entre le Mesta-Karasu jusqu'au Kapetnik-Balkan (de la Carte Autrichienne) ; là elle tourne vers l'ouest pour longer, par la ligne de partage des eaux la Vodenica-Planina. Elle suit cette ligne jusqu'à 2,300 mètres au sud-est de Barakovo (Barakli), la quittant en ce point pour descendre vers la Rilska-Ricka (Riloricka) par la ligne de crête bien accentuée du second contre-fort à l'est de Barakove, au pied duquel elle s'engage dans un torrent desséché qui la mène à la rivière à 850 mètres en amont du pont de la chaussée.—Cette ligne sépare à peu près le gros des possessions de Barakovo laissé à la Turquie d'une part, et de Paromnovo (Paromin) laissé à la Bulgarie de l'autre.—La frontière suit ensuite le thalweg de la Rilska-Ricka jusqu'au confluent de cette rivière avec la Struma, puis elle remonte celui de la Struma pendant 600 mètres pour se diriger à l'ouest dans le ravin séparant les villages de Tekia (Jelesnica), appartenant à la Bulgarie, et de Buczyno (Bucinovo), appartenant à la Turquie. Remontant ce ravin, elle gagne par sa tête deux mamelons rocheux et par ceux-ci le sommet du Tezordak Kamik ; de là elle poursuit la crête de la Vlaïna, qui contourne le bassin de toutes les eaux tombant dans la Struma au sud de Buczyno (lequel bassin reste avec les villages de Lisia, Drenova, et Klisura, dans sa totalité à la Turquie), et gagne ainsi le sommet de la Siniava-Czuka (correspondant au Gitka de la Carte Autrichienne). De la Siniava-Czuka elle suit toujours la grande ligne de partage des eaux qui sépare la Jelesnica de la Bregalnica, la Lepnica de l'Egri-Déré, se dirige avec elle vers le nord, coupe la grande route de Kustendil à Egri-Palanka près de la karaula situé sur le col 1,247 de la Carte Autrichienne, contourne la vallée de la Pokriva à l'ouest, laissant tout le bassin de cette rivière avec les villages de Seravino, Goleseh et Karamanitza à la Bulgarie. Au nord de ce bassin elle gagne la chaîne de la Rabina-Polana et arrive, suivant toujours la ligne de partage des eaux, au Crni-Vrh."

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie justifie sa proposition par les considérations suivantes : Du Cadir-Tépé jusqu'au confluent de la Rilska-Ricka et de la Struma et même un peu plus loin jusqu'à deux sommets pierreux entre les villages de Buczyno et de Tekia, tous les membres de la délégation de l'ouest sont tombés immédiatement d'accord pour la fixation de la frontière. Il y a eu entre eux divergence d'opinion pour le prolongement du tracé. Le Traité porte que la frontière se dirige en ligne droite du susdit confluent de la Rilska-Ricka et de la Struma au Mont Gitka, en laissant toutefois à la Turquie la totalité du bassin de la Suha-Ricka. La carte Autrichienne, qui a servi de base aux travaux du Congrès, donne à la Suha-Ricka deux affluents de gauche assez importants. La carte topographique Russe n'attribue à aucune rivière le nom de Suha-Ricka, et la délégation de l'ouest n'a pu retrouver ce nom dans le pays ; la région serait, au contraire, d'après la dite carte, traversée par trois cours d'eau indépendants, affluents directs de la Struma, dont l'un pénétrerait au nord dans l'intérieur des terres bien au-delà de la ligne droite tracée du confluent précité au Mont Gitka. Plusieurs membres de la délégation ont voulu reconnaître dans les trois cours d'eau l'ensemble du bassin de la Suha-Ricka dessiné par la Carte Autrichienne. Le Colonel de Ripp était personnellement hésitant. Mais le principe voté par la Commission dans la séance du 24 Juillet a fait disparaître tous ses doutes. Car il permet d'attribuer à la Bulgarie le territoire de la Pokriva, et, par conséquent, de lui donner une compensation pour la perte du bassin supérieur d'un des trois susdits affluents de la Struma.

M. le Commissaire de Russie déclare qu'il admet en principe les compensations de territoire ; mais il se réserve d'en discuter la parfaite équivalence.

Le Président dit qu'il n'y a pas ici matière à compensations, mais qu'il s'agit simplement d'une double interprétation du texte du Traité. Il lui paraît manifeste que les Plénipotentiaires Anglais, en proposant une rectification des limites du Sandjak de Sophia au nord de Djouma avaient en vue un tracé selon une ligne de partage ; et c'est ainsi que la ligne-frontière conforme aux dernières propositions Anglaises, tracée sur la carte par les Plénipotentiaires, conserve à la Turquie, sauf en un point où le manque de netteté du trait a entraîné une erreur, toutes les eaux qui se déversent dans la Struma au sud de son confluent avec la Rilska-Ricka. Et, d'autre part, le Congrès avait entendu faire suivre à la frontière la limite du Sandjak de Sophia à l'ouest du Mont Gitka. Or, il résulte des renseignements concordants recueillis à Egri-Palanka et à Kustendil que les trois villages placés par la Carte

Autrichienne dans la vallée de la Pokriva ont appartenu jusqu'ici au Sandjak de Sophia. L'impossibilité de retrouver sur le terrain l'ancienne limite du sandjak a décidé la Commission à choisir la ligne naturelle du terrain la plus proche du tracé figuré à Berlin sur la Carte Autrichienne. Il y a donc doublement lieu d'englober dans le territoire de la Bulgarie le bassin de la Pokriva, au lieu de le couper en deux. On ne peut par suite parler de compensations; il est permis seulement de dire que la première interprétation du texte du Traité est à l'avantage de la Turquie et la seconde à l'avantage de la Bulgarie.

Quelques explications sont ensuite échangées entre son Excellence Tahir Pacha, le Colonel Orero, le Commandant Lemoyne et le Colonel de Ripp, au sujet de l'attribution à la Bulgarie de la vallée de la Pokriva.

Le Président résume la discussion en disant que la Carte Autrichienne donne au bassin de la Pokriva une étendue hors de proportion avec son étendue réelle. A en juger d'après cette carte, la frontière, pour atteindre la tête de la vallée de la Pokriva, devrait faire un crochet d'une quinzaine de kilomètres à gauche de la ligne droite menée du confluent précité au Mont Gitka, tandis que d'après la carte Russe elle s'en écarterait seulement de 2½ kilom. Le bassin supérieur de la Pokriva comprendrait, d'après la première carte, une superficie de 80 kilom. carrés, tandis que, d'après la seconde, il a simplement une dizaine de kilomètres.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow demande alors qu'on vote en bloc sur la ligne-frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Macédoine. Cette proposition est agréée et le tracé proposé par le Colonel de Ripp est adopté à l'unanimité, sous la réserve que les levers attendus n'apporteraient pas des modifications profondes au système orographique des régions correspondantes de la Carte Autrichienne.

Le Président met ensuite en discussion la question de la route militaire par le sud du Sandjak de Sophia, que le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès a accordée à la Turquie, en renvoyant pour les détails du tracé "aux négociations de la Commission Européenne avec les autorités locales." Il demande à ses collègues s'il convient de prendre ces derniers mots au pied de la lettre et d'entrer par suite en rapports avec les Administrations des districts traversés.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp donne lecture de l'Article X du Traité de San Stéfano, visé par le passage précité du Protocole No. 17. Cet Article est ainsi conçu:—"La Sublime Porte aura le droit de se servir de la voie de Bulgarie pour le transport par des routes déterminées, de ses troupes, munitions, et approvisionnements, dans les provinces situées au delà de la Principauté et *vice versâ*. Afin d'éviter les difficultés et les malentendus dans l'exercice de ce droit, tout en garantissant les nécessités militaires de la Sublime Porte, un règlement spécial en établira les conditions dans l'espace de trois mois après la ratification du présent acte, par une entente entre la Sublime Porte et l'Administration de la Bulgarie." En se fondant sur ce texte, le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie n'hésite pas à dire que la Commission n'a pas à entrer en négociations avec les autorités locales.

Le Président demande s'il ne convient pas alors de faire porter à la connaissance de Son Altesse Sérénissime le Prince de Bulgarie la décision prise de la Commission.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow, prenant à ce moment la parole, déclare qu'il se refuse à suivre la Commission dans la voie où elle s'engage. Il ne peut discuter la question d'un passage par le sud du Sandjak de Sophia, parce qu'il n'en est pas question dans le Traité, et que le Traité seul détermine à ses yeux les attributions de la Commission Européenne de Délimitation de la Bulgarie. Il ne lui est pas démontré que le Protocole No. 17, en parlant de la Commission Européenne, ait visé celle-ci; il se pourrait qu'on ait songé à charger de cette mission une Commission Spéciale, qui aurait été appelée à organiser la Bulgarie. Le Commissaire de Russie ajoute que s'il entrait dans l'examen du fond même de la question, il aurait de nouvelles raisons à donner pour s'opposer à la prise en considération du passage précité du Protocole No. 17: le Traité de San Stéfano pour constituer la Grande Bulgarie avait isolé plusieurs provinces Turques de l'ensemble du territoire Ottoman; son Article X avait eu pour but de rendre nonobstant possibles les communications de province à province. A Berlin, Mehemed Ali demanda le maintien de cet Article, en se fondant sur l'impossibilité de construire d'autres routes que celles existant déjà au travers du territoire Bulgare; le Congrès, croyant qu'il en était réellement ainsi, accueillit cette requête, bien que les limites de la Bulgarie se trouvassent déjà modifiées. Le Commissaire de Russie apprécie ensuite l'état des routes dans la région du Rhodope, et qualifie de mal fondée la demande présentée par Mehemed Ali au Congrès. Il ne peut, en conséquence, avoir égard au passage précité au Protocole No. 17.

M. le Colonel de Ripp, pour se conformer à ses instructions spéciales, demande, au contraire, qu'on poursuive la discussion.

M. le Commandant Lemoyne déclare que ses instructions lui prescrivent également de s'occuper du passage militaire par le sud de l'ancien Sandjak de Sophia.

Le Président rappelle au Commissaire de Russie que la question en suspens a été inscrite à l'ordre du jour de la dernière séance, sans que cette inscription ait donné lieu à aucune observation de sa part. Il le prie de s'expliquer d'une façon plus catégorique sur son attitude nouvelle et de dire s'il prétend s'opposer à la discussion, ou s'il entend simplement s'abstenir d'y prendre part, s'il agit en vertu d'instructions spéciales ou s'il veut réserver l'opinion de son Gouvernement. Il l'invite, dans ce cas, à demander d'urgence des instructions.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow répond qu'il n'a pas besoin d'instructions spéciales. Il a ses instructions générales, d'après lesquelles il agit toujours. Il juge donc inutile d'en référer à son Gouvernement.

Le Président interroge le Commissaire de Russie sur la ligne de conduite qu'il suivrait si la Commission ne s'arrêtait pas devant son opposition.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow répond qu'il ne prendrait pas part à la discussion et ne signerait pas l'instrument diplomatique accordant la route militaire à la Turquie.

M. le Général Hamley rappelle la discussion qui s'engagea au sein du Congrès, de laquelle il résulte, aux termes mêmes du Protocole No. 17, "que les Plénipotentiaires Russes accorderaient volontiers à la Porte un passage par le sud du Sandjak de Sophia." Il ajoute que si la Russie contestait aujourd'hui les engagements pris par elle, ce qu'il se refuse à croire, elle commettrait un manque de bonne foi.

Cette parole amène *M. le Colonel Bogolubow* à apprécier de nouveau la demande de Mehemed Ali au Congrès, et à inviter le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne à laisser le Gouvernement de la Russie en dehors du débat. Il assume sur lui toute la responsabilité de son attitude.

M. le Général Hamley répond qu'il discute en ce moment les opinions des Gouvernements exprimés dans le Protocole No. 17, et non les idées qui viennent d'être émises devant la Commission par le Colonel Bogolubow. Il maintient donc les termes dont il s'est servi.

Le Président croit utile, avant que la discussion soit abordée, de bien préciser les trois questions qui se posent:—(1) la Commission Européenne de Délimitation de la Bulgarie est-elle, oui ou non, la Commission Européenne dont il est parlé dans le passage précité du Protocole No. 17 du Congrès? (2) quelle est la route militaire à attribuer à la Turquie d'après les stipulations formelles du susdit Protocole? (3) y a-t-il lieu pour la Commission d'entrer en pourparlers avec le Gouvernement Bulgare? Le Président d'ailleurs ne saurait conserver la parole à un Commissaire qui se proposerait d'attaquer une décision du Congrès: il ne laissera donc pas discuter le droit de jouissance d'une route militaire que la Turquie tient de l'Europe. Il propose à la Commission de se prononcer en premier lieu sur la question de compétence soulevée par le Colonel Bogolubow, et de décider s'il lui convient de s'arrêter devant l'opposition soulevée par celui-ci, ou de passer outre. Mais avant de prendre un parti sur ce point, la Commission doit savoir d'une façon non équivoque si le Colonel Bogolubow a exprimé comme Commissaire de Russie l'opinion de son Gouvernement, ou s'il a manifesté des idées personnelles.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow répond qu'il a suivi sa propre inspiration, qu'il prend sur lui la responsabilité de son opposition, mais qu'après tout il parle comme Représentant de la Russie.

Le Président constate qu'il résulte de cette dernière déclaration du Colonel Bogolubow qu'il agit vis-à-vis de son Gouvernement sous sa propre responsabilité et vis-à-vis de la Commission comme le Représentant de son Gouvernement. La Commission n'a pas à considérer la responsabilité que le Colonel Bogolubow encourt auprès de son Gouvernement. Elle est donc fondée à dire en présence de la précédente déclaration, que le Commissaire de Russie, parlant au nom de son Gouvernement, a déclaré la Commission incompétente à se prononcer sur le tracé de la route militaire visée par le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès. Il appartiendra en conséquence à chacun des Commissaires d'en rendre compte à son Gouvernement.

A ce moment, *M. le Colonel Orero* propose la remise de la discussion à huitaine, afin de laisser au Commissaire de Russie la faculté de solliciter de son Gouvernement des instructions spéciales en harmonie avec celles de ses collègues.

M. le Général Hamley aurait désiré, au contraire, qu'on passât outre, mais il n'insiste pas en présence de la proposition du Commissaire d'Italie.

La discussion est, en conséquence, renvoyée à lundi prochain.
La séance est levée à 3 heures, et la Commission s'ajourne au Mardi, 5 Août.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) P. PODSTAWSKI.
G. MARMIER.
F. VICINO-PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 45.

Protocole No. 25.—Séance tenue à Thérapia, à l'Hôtel d'Angleterre, le 5 Août, 1879.

Etaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp.
M. le Capitaine Podstawski.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne.
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero.
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow.
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha.
Simon Effendi (Papasian).
Le Commandant Hassan Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure.

On procède à la lecture du Protocole No. 24.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow rappelle que dans la discussion de la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Macédoine, son Excellence Tahir Pacha avait proposé un empiétement sur le versant nord jusqu'à la crête militaire et sur une longueur de 1,000 mètres environ à hauteur de la grande route d'Egri-Palanka à Kustendil ; plusieurs Commissaires lui représentèrent l'impossibilité d'accueillir une demande fondée sur des motifs d'ordre militaire, et de déroger ainsi à la résolution précédemment votée par la Commission à la séance du 24 Juillet. Quelques-uns même ajoutèrent que la Commission de bornage pourrait mal interpréter un vote de la Commission contraire à la proposition du Commissaire Ottoman. En présence de ces observations, son Excellence Tahir Pacha retira sa proposition. M. le Colonel Bogolubow désirerait voir cet incident relaté au procès-verbal de la précédente séance, parce qu'il contient à son sens un enseignement pour la Commission de bornage. Sous la réserve de cette observation, le Protocole No. 24 est adopté.

Le Président invite la Commission à discuter différents articles du projet d'instrument diplomatique, et d'abord le suivant :—

"La ligne de démarcation entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale, de la Mer Noire au Cadir-Tépé, est rapportée, avec tous ses détails, sur un croquis au 126000 dressé d'après les levés des topographes Russes et ci-annexé.

Toutes les distances indiquées dans l'Article précédent sont mesurées sur ledit croquis en ligne droite et en projection horizontale. Par "crête militaire" on entend la ligne des points où la pente généralement assez douce à partir d'un sommet ou d'une ligne de faîte, s'accentue et devient plus rapide pour former le versant d'une vallée, d'une rivière, ou d'un ravin."

M. le Colonel Bogolubow, ayant en vue les contestations que pourrait susciter au sein des Commissions de bornage le manque de précision de certaines indications du texte de l'instrument diplomatique, propose d'y insérer une résolution attribuant dans de pareils cas la supériorité à la carte sur le texte.

M. le Commandant Lemoyne ne croit pas qu'un croquis fait à l'échelle de 1/126000 offre aux Commissions de bornage des indications suffisamment précises. Une erreur de 1 ou 2 millim. dans le dessin se traduirait sur le terrain par un déplacement d'une cinquantaine ou d'une centaine de mètres. Le texte, au contraire, fait toujours suivre à la frontière des accidents naturels du terrain, et ne prête pas par conséquent aux mêmes incertitudes ; et dans les traversées de vallées, on a eu soin d'indiquer en mètres la distance des points marquants de la ligne-frontière aux principaux repères existants.

M. le Colonel de Ripp, tout en déclarant fondée l'opinion exprimée par le Commissaire de France, désirerait qu'il fût stipulé que dans le cas où le texte du tracé de la frontière présenterait à l'ambiguïté, on eût à recourir à la carte.

La Commission tient compte de ce désir en ajoutant au premier alinéa de l'Article en discussion les mots suivants :—"Qui servira comme document explicatif dans tous les cas où le texte pourrait soulever quelque doute."

L'ensemble de l'Article est ensuite adopté à l'unanimité.

La Commission passe à l'examen de l'Article suivant :—

"Aux termes du dernier alinéa de l'Article 11 du Traité de Berlin, le Gouvernement Ottoman ne pourra pas élever des fortifications sur le territoire de la Roumélie Orientale dans un rayon de 10 kilom. autour de Samakov.

"L'arc de cercle qui limite à l'est la zone dans laquelle toute construction de fortification reste interdite à la Turquie se détache de la frontière à 200 mètres au sud du sommet de Velina-Mogila, coupe la route de Bonja à Samakow à 2,200 mètres nord-ouest de l'église de Gulzal, passe à 1,250 mètres à l'ouest de ce village, à la même distance à l'ouest de l'église de Radwill, court ensuite à peu près parallèlement à la Maritza sur une étendue de 5 à 6 kilom., et va rejoindre la frontière au Tcham-Kourou.

"Cette ligne est tracée sur le croquis annexé à la description de la frontière."

Cet Article est adopté à l'unanimité.

La discussion se poursuit sur l'Article suivant :—

"Pour satisfaire au vœu unanime exprimé par les Plénipotentiaires des sept Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, d'après un sentiment de respect pour la mémoire des hommes morts au champ d'honneur dans les ravins de Chipka, il ne sera apporté aucune entrave à l'accès libre par la grande route de deux grands cimetières, où reposent les restes des soldats Russes tués autour de la passe, et qui font partie de la Bulgarie conformément à l'Article ci-dessus ; les cimetières moins importants ainsi que les tombes isolées qui existent dans ces parages sur le territoire attribué à la Roumélie Orientale seront sous la protection spéciale du Gouvernement de cette province, qui les fera respecter et veillera à leur entretien."

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha observe que cette rédaction permettrait à une troupe étrangère ou à des gens armés de circuler sur la grande route.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow dit que l'intention des clergés de Tirnova et de Gabrovo auxquels est confié l'entretien des cimetières, est de faire une fois l'an une procession solennelle, à laquelle plusieurs centaines de fidèles prendraient part. Il insiste pour que de tels cortéges puissent sans entraves se rendre par la grande route aux deux cimetières.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha propose pour concilier ces deux désirs de substituer dans la rédaction première aux mots : "A l'accès libre par la grande route des deux grands cimetières" ceux-ci : "Au libre passage des particuliers ou des processions se rendant dans un but pieux par la grande route aux deux grands cimetières."

Cette rédaction est adoptée.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha observe, en second lieu, que la rédaction du dernier membre de phrase de l'Article en discussion semble indiquer une restriction apportée au droit de suzeraineté du Sultan.

Le Président répond que le Gouvernement Ottoman ne peut veiller directement à l'entretien des cimetières et qu'il est nécessaire de faire choix d'une autorité intermédiaire, le Gouvernement de la Roumélie Orientale; il propose, cependant, pour donner satisfaction au Commissaire de Turquie, de rayer du texte le mot "spéciale."

Le texte de l'Article ainsi doublement amendé est ensuite adopté à l'unanimité.

La Commission passe à l'examen de l'Article suivant:

"Il appartiendra aux Etats intéressés de prendre d'un commun accord telles mesures qu'ils croiront utiles pour établir des marques de bornage sur les diverses frontières, conformément au tracé arrêté par la Commission."

M. le Colonel Bogolubow propose de compléter ce texte par les mots: "et de fixer une certaine zone frontière indispensable aux besoins administratifs." Il invoque à l'appui de sa proposition les inconvénients résultant du contact immédiat des lignes de sentinelles et de postes douaniers.

M. le Commandant Lemoyne observe qu'en règle chaque Etat est possesseur de son territoire jusqu'à sa frontière, et qu'une Commission de Délimitation ne saurait, sans outrepasser ses pouvoirs, restreindre le droit de la puissance territoriale d'élever des constructions de toute nature sur son territoire.

M. le Colonel Orero et *M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp* partagent et appuient cet avis.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha remarque que la Commission a préjugé d'avance la question en limitant en certains endroits de la frontière les empiétements sur le versant nord du Balkan au terrain strictement nécessaire à l'emplacement d'un ouvrage fortifié. La proposition du Colonel Bogolubow équivaudrait à retirer les concessions faites à l'Empire Ottoman, et à reporter vers le sud sa frontière militaire.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow n'insiste pas pour l'adoption de son amendement. Il avait entendu simplement établir que les droits de la Turquie et de la Bulgarie sur la ligne-frontière étaient égaux, et que celle-ci comme celle-là avait le droit d'y placer des sentinelles et des postes-douaniers, droit qui lui semblait être contesté par une des parties intéressées. Tout en partageant les idées théoriques émises par ses collègues, il pense en raison des circonstances exceptionnelles, dans lesquelles travaille la Commission, qu'il y avait un conseil à donner.

L'Article est adopté à l'unanimité.

Le Président demande à la Commission si elle serait d'avis d'introduire dans l'instrument diplomatique un Article de la teneur suivante:—

"Il leur appartiendra également de régler directement ou après entente réciproque pour les maintenir ou les transformer par des compensations équivalentes, les droits de pacage ou d'usage dans les bois que pourraient avoir, par écrits, par possession ou par prescription, certaines communes frontières sur des territoires attribués par le présent acte à un Etat, une principauté ou province voisine.

"Il sera d'ailleurs apporté par les lois et règlements de douane à intervenir tous les tempéraments de nature à ménager les intérêts économiques des populations frontières.

"Conformément aux stipulations précises du Traité de Berlin, les droits de propriété des particuliers sur des immeubles situés dans un autre Etat, principauté, ou province que celui ou celle de leur résidence, demeurent intacts."

M. le Colonel Bogolubow insiste pour l'insertion de cet Article. *M. le Colonel de Ripp* partage et appuie cet avis; il rappelle certains propos recueillis par la Commission au cours de sa reconnaissance des Balkans, et révélant chez les habitants des villages frontières une tendance marquée à s'attribuer la propriété des bois appartenant à des villages de l'Etat voisin, mais situés en deçà de leur frontière.

M. le Colonel Orero ne s'oppose pas d'une façon absolue à l'adoption d'un Article qu'il croit à certains égards utile, mais il juge que les questions administratives échappent à la compétence de la Commission.

Le Président répond qu'il y a des précédents en faveur de l'Article.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha juge celui-ci inutile, attendu que des Conventions interviendront certainement entre les parties intéressées.

A la suite de ces observations, la Commission passe au vote sur l'Article et l'adopte par 5 voix contre 2 abstentions—celles du Commissaire d'Italie et du Commissaire de Turquie, qui déclarent ensuite se rallier à la majorité.

Le Commissaire de Turquie se croit obligé, à la suite des discussions précédentes, de réserver d'une façon formelle tous les droits du Gouvernement Ottoman relatifs à

l'établissement des maisons de douane, de postes, et d'ouvrages de fortifications sur la limite même de son territoire; il demande à la Commission de prendre note de sa déclaration.

Le Président informe ensuite ses collègues des démarches faites par le Secrétariat auprès de la Commission de Délimitation de la Serbie en exécution d'une résolution précédemment prise par la Commission et insérée au Protocole No. 15, et il lui communique la dépêche par laquelle le Président de la Commission de Serbie annonce l'achèvement des travaux de délimitation et l'envoi prochain du Rapport final.

L'ordre du jour étant épuisé, la séance est levée à 1 heures et la Commission s'ajourne au Lundi 11 Août.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) P. PODSTAWSKI.
G. MARMIER.
F. VICINO-PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

No. 46.

Captain Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 25.) *Servian Boundary Commission, Belgrade, August* 18, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 22 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that at a meeting of the Commission on the 9th instant, General Yahya Pasha, the Turkish Commissioner, informed the Commission that the Sublime Porte had definitely accepted the frontier-line marked at Prepolac.

I have therefore the satisfaction of informing your Lordship that the whole of the new Turco-Servian boundary as marked by the Commission, from the Kopaonik to Crni Vrh, has now been accepted by all the Commissioners.

The whole of the new Servian frontier as laid down in Article XXXVI of the Berlin Treaty has been marked on the ground, and the necessary surveys have been made for the preparation of record plans illustrative of the new boundary.

These plans are already well advanced, and will shortly be signed by the Commissioners.

The work entrusted to this Commission will then be completed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 47.

Captain Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 26.) *Servian Boundary Commission, Belgrade, August* 18, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 25 informing your Lordship that the line of frontier marked by the Commission at Prepolac had been accepted by all the Commissioners, I have now the honour to submit the following details on this subject.

I received at Prepolac on the 14th July, your Lordship's despatch No. 9 dated 5th July, 1879, instructing me to give Servia in the settlement of that portion of the frontier which had not been already fixed a means of defence against the population

of the border territory. I was also in receipt of a copy of your Lordship's despatch to Mr. Gould No. 60 dated 19th June, 1879, transmitted to me for my information, expressing the wish of Her Majesty's Government "that the settlement should be equitable and satisfactory to all parties concerned, so as to remove all occasion or opportunity for future conflicts."

In order to effect that result with the greater certainty, it was necessary to give to the Servians a defensive line at Prepolac to enable them to oppose the inroads of the Albanians, and at the same time to insure that such a line should not prove a menance to the inhabitants of the valley of the Lab.

The watershed line drops almost into the plain about 6 miles south of Prepolac. The military position of the Turks in the upper valley of the Lab is, therefore, liable to be turned, and the only natural position for defending this portion of the Ottoman Empire is to be found 15 miles to the south where the Lab flows through a narrow defile to the north of Pristina. If then the Turks possessed no position at Prepolac it would inevitably happen that their troops would never be stationed in the upper valley of the Lab, and the whole country bordering on Servia, as far as the defile near Pristina, would be evacuated.

Now the plain of the Lab is inhabited entirely by Albanians who have no fear of the Servians, and who will avail themselves of every opportunity to invade the territory assigned to Servia by the Berlin Treaty. They have some respect for the Ottoman troops, and, therefore, while the Servians should have ample means to prevent a wild but brave population from invading their territory, it was also necessary to give the Turks the means of establishing troops at Prepolac for the maintenance of proper order in the valley of Lab.

It is also to be observed that if an offensive military position were given to the Servians at Prepolac, in the event of a war with Turkey, they would be able to advance almost without opposition to a position in dangerous proximity to Pristina and to the Salonica-Mitrovica railway.

There was a very strong feeling among several of the Commissioners, namely, the German, the Russian, and the Italian, that the frontier should follow the strict watershed line, avoiding the latter only where it cuts the road from Kurshumlie to Pristina, for the benefit of the inhabitants at Prepolac (see Sketch 1 at points * *), and this view was fully shared by the Servian Commissioner. I have already informed your Lordship, in the notes of the meeting of the 16th July, inclosed with my despatch No. 22, dated the 6th August, that the Italian Commissioner based his opinion on the Report of the Military Commission at Berlin, copy of which Report was not in the possession of any of the other Commissioners. The German Commissioner was also of a like opinion, believing that, if the Congress had wished to give to Turkey the southern débouché of the defile or the position of Prepolac ("la place" mentioned in the Protocols at Berlin), the words "la place" would have been inserted in the text of the Treaty. This view received some support from the line drawn on the Treaty map, the scale of which was, however, too small to establish this opinion conclusively.

Such a trace would have entirely prevented the Turks from occupying any territory near Prepolac, while the Servians, who have positions in rear of the crest-line, would, in case of war, be able to seize at once the crest, and commence the offensive movements towards Pristina previously mentioned. My French and Austrian colleagues agreed with me in the opinion that such a frontier was inadmissible.

The Austro-French proposal given in the notes of the meeting of the 16th July embodied the idea of completely freeing the road, and enabling thereby the Porte to establish troops at Prepolac. It gave to the Turks a useful knoll (811, Sketch 1), which, while serving as a screen for the higher and more important position marked A on the sketch, overlooked the northern slope of the defile. A knoll (marked 813) was left to Servia, which could be made into a strong position; and this knoll, in addition to the height A, appeared to me to concede to the Principality some advantages, which, if made the most of, could not easily be counterbalanced without a large outlay on the part of the Ottoman Government. I, therefore, proposed an amendment to the Austro-French project, namely, to neutralize the height A. This proposal, however, gained no adherents, the Turkish Commissioner being of opinion that the frontier should be traced north of this point, while the French and Austrian Commissioners considered that the line they had proposed conceded all that they could accord to Turkey. Further, I had reason to believe that my French and Austrian colleagues were gradually inclining to the view that the frontier should follow the watershed line.

It was unnecessary to refer to your Lordship the question of neutralizing the height A, the more so as the Austro-French project was not, under the circumstances, disadvantageous, and was, in my opinion, all that could be insisted on, according to the terms of the Treaty. I, therefore, eventually supported this project, which, after some difficulty, was accepted by the whole Commission, excepting the Ottoman Commissioner, who referred the question to his Government.

Four days later, when the Commission had completed the delimitation of the new frontier on the Kopaonik, the Turkish Commissioner proposed a new line (see Sketch No. 2), and this project, being accepted by the Servian Commissioner, was also agreed to by the whole Commission, and marked on the ground provisionally, the Turkish, Austrian, and Servian Commissioners giving their vote conditionally *ad referendum* to their respective Governments.

These Governments have now definitely accepted the votes of their Commissioners.

This new line follows the watershed for a certain distance, and then leaves it so that the road from Prepolac to Pristina is completely freed. It is preferable to the Austro-French line in not being tortuous, in avoiding the descent into a deep and wooded valley to the north-west of Prepolac, and in leaving the Albanian village Chishniak to Turkey, which is a gain to both sides. In a military sense it neutralizes the knolls marked No. 1 and No. 2 (Sketch 2), one of which, No. 1, was left to Servia, and the other, No. 2, to Turkey, by the Austro-French proposal. It still leaves to Turkey the screening properties of the height No. 2, as well as a good site for establishing troops at Prepolac. Both sides have a fairly defensive position, where they can maintain themselves with less cost or warlike preparation. Servia retains the dominant height No. 3, which is of small area. In time of war both sides would have equally the chance of seizing and establishing themselves on the crest, without which the Servians have, by the configuration of the ground, no facilities for massing troops in this neighbourhood.

The line as now marked on the ground (see Sketch 2) is, therefore, in my estimation, a fair determination of the frontier as stipulated in the Berlin Treaty. It is the best for both parties concerned, and gives all necessary facilities, at this important point of the boundary, for the repression of those incursions which have led to constant conflicts between the Albanians and Servians on the border.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 48.

Captain Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 27.)

My Lord, *Servian Boundary Commission, Belgrade, August* 18, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 22 of the 6th instant, I beg to submit the following report on some points which have arisen in the delimitation of the Turco-Servian frontier between Crni Carmen and the Kopaonik:—

1. *Mount Djak.*—In accordance with Article XXXVI of the Berlin Treaty, the new frontier between Crni Carmen, on the Poljanica Planina, and Prepolac follows the line of watershed between the basins of the Brvenica on the Turkish side, and the Medvidja on the Servian side. The boundary, as shown on the Austrian Staff Map (see tracing No. 1), intersects Mount Djak, which is not mentioned in the Treaty. On examining the ground it was found that Mount Djak was incorrectly marked on the map, and that its true position was as indicated in red, about 6 miles north-east of the principal line of watershed. The Commission were unanimously of opinion that the new frontier, in order to avoid crossing a valley, must follow strictly the watershed line, thus leaving Mount Djak in Servian territory. The district of Mount Djak includes about twenty Albanian villages, the inhabitants of which had been led to believe that the new frontier would intersect Mount Djak, as shown in the map, and leave these villages to Turkey. Much discontent was expressed by the Albanians when it was found that the delimitation of the new boundary assigned these villages to Servia.

2. *Prepolac.*—This question is reported on in despatch No. 26.

3. *Kamilug.*—Proceeding northwards from Prepolac, the new frontier follows the

crest of the Marica Planina, and the line of watershed between the basins of the Ibar and Sitnica on the Turkish side, and the Toplica on the Servian side. The Treaty stipulates that the new frontier is detached from the old frontier on the Kopaonik by the Mount Kanilug, and thence descends by a southern counterfort, following the western limit of the Sandjak of Nisch to the crest of the Marica Planina. On examining the ground and making inquiries, no evidence could be obtained as to the course of the western limit of the Sandjak of Nisch. The Commission accordingly followed as far as practicable the only datum at their disposal, namely, the track indicated by the dotted line on the Austrian Staff Map (see tracing 2).

It was unanimously agreed to continue the delimitation of the new frontier, following the crest line of the Marica and Kopaonik Planina, which was the nearest natural line to that marked on the Treaty map. The latter appeared to indicate that the western limit of the Sandjak of Nisch crossed the heads of several ravines west of the Kopaonik Planina (see tracing 2), but as this could not be determined with sufficient accuracy to identify such a trace of frontier on the ground, it was agreed to follow the crest line to a point (Kotchetina) about 6 miles south-east of the junction of the old and new frontiers on the Kopaonik.

The Commission also were unable to identify on the ground the Mount Kanilug specified in the Treaty. The site pointed out by the Servian authorities as Mount Kanilug was not found to correspond either with the Treaty or the Treaty Map. Under these circumstances the Commission decided to establish the point (Mount Kanilug) by measurement from the data given on the Treaty Map. From this point so obtained, the boundary-line was marked southward, following at first a southern counterfort of the Kopaonik, and continued south-eastward to the point previously marked at Kotchetina.

In tracing this line some allowance was made to Servia for the loss of territory incurred by the Principality in the delimitation of the new frontier following the crest line in lieu of crossing the heads of ravines west of the Kopaonik Planina, and about fifteen Servian villages, principally owned by Mussulman proprietors residing at Novi-Bazar, were assigned to the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 49.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 541.)
My Lord,

Vienna, August 27, 1879.

BARON CALICE tells me that the Russian Montenegrin Frontier Commissioner has informed his colleagues that, as regards the disputed points of the frontier, his Government insist upon temporary marks at least being fixed on the ground, as they will recognize no line of which there is a mere tracing on the map.

His Excellency animadverted strongly on the manner in which the Russians refuse to abide by every decision that is come to contrary to their wishes, and try to bring it up again in a new shape.

He had telegraphed to the Imperial Commissioner that his Government had supposed this question to have been disposed of by the vote by which all the Commissioners, excepting those of Russia and Montenegro, had decided that the disputed portions of the frontier should be traced on the map, but not on the ground. If, however, the majority of the Commissioners should now be of opinion that temporary marks should be placed on the ground, the Austrian Government would make no objection to it, provided always that it is distinctly understood that the marks to be placed shall conform strictly with the tracing on the map as already agreed to by the majority; and provided also that no alteration is to be made as regards the points that were considered as definitively settled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 50.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 542.)
My Lord,

Vienna, August 27, 1879.

I ASKED Baron Calice, yesterday, what view he took of the question of the thalweg of the Danube.

He said that the Austrian Commissioner reported in favour of the adoption of a "scientific" thalweg as the frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria, instead of that which had hitherto been accepted; but he himself felt considerable doubt of the propriety of disturbing the existing arrangement.

The scientific thalweg proposed would take one island from Bulgaria, but would transfer to it five now belonging to Roumania, which would, of course, protest against it; and his impression was that it would be best to leave things as they are, especially as the Treaty made no mention of the question.

I mentioned that General Hamley had expressed himself to your Lordship in a similar sense, which, he said, strongly confirmed him in his opinion, but he hesitated to instruct Major Ripp to adopt it, till he had ascertained the views of Count Andrassy, whose absence would make it difficult to receive an answer before the question came before the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 51.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 543.)
My Lord,

Vienna, August 27, 1879.

I HAVE inquired of Baron Calice what he had heard from the Austro-Hungarian Commissioner upon the question of the military road.

He said that a report had been received from Colonel Ripp strongly insisting upon the necessity of securing such a road, and he had consequently been authorized to discuss it in the Commission.

I told him that your Lordship had informed General Hamley that Her Majesty had no doubt of the competence of the Commission to discuss the question, and that if he were satisfied of the majority of his colleagues being in favour of it he need not be deterred, even if the Russian Commissioner should retire or decline to take part in the question.

Baron Calice said that as he had heard nothing of a probability of such a retirement of the Russian Commissioner, nothing had been said on the subject to Colonel Ripp, who, however, he imagined, was not likely to consider it a sufficient reason to stop the proceedings of the Commission. It would never do to admit that a single Commissioner, by a simple act of abstention, could control the whole conduct of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 52.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 545.)
My Lord,

Vienna, August 29, 1879.

BARON ORCZY tells me that, although no official communication has yet been made on the subject, the Russian Government now propose that the question of the Dobrudscha frontier at Arab-Tabia should be referred to a Commission of civil engineers, who would be competent to judge correctly upon the position to be selected for a bridge over the Danube.

If this Commission should not come to a unanimous agreement, the different

reports would then be referred to the Cabinets, and the decision of the majority among them would be final.

Baron Orczy said that, notwithstanding this acceptance by the Russian Government for the first time of the principle of deciding the question by a majority, he could look with no favour upon the proposal.

The original Commission, composed of eminent military engineer officers, was, in his opinion, fully as much to be trusted as any Commission composed of civilians, who, if they were asked, would always declare themselves able to construct a bridge over any part of the Danube.

I said that, if the proposal were accepted, it would be necessary to be very careful in the instructions to be given to the new Commission, which should be strictly limited to the expression of an opinion of the comparative merits of the two positions for a bridge that had been suggested by the majority and by the minority of the Commission last year, and its probable cost at each of the two places.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 53.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 548. Very Confidential.)
Vienna, August 30, 1879.

My Lord,

I ASKED Count Andrassy to-day whether he had come back from Gastein satisfied with his interview with Prince Bismarck.

He said he had every reason to be entirely so, for he could not doubt the sincerity of the Prince's professions of his wish to cultivate the closest understanding with Austria and England, for the purpose of withstanding the aims of Russia, though he had gathered from his Highness that he had not at present an easy task, for as the Emperor William grew older he was more difficult to guide, and the reproaches of the Emperor Alexander, for the manner in which Germany had supported the other Powers against Russia upon various questions arising out of the Treaty of Berlin, had not been without effect upon His Majesty's mind.

Russia, Count Andrassy said, was now exerting all her ingenuity to prevent the cordial understanding between Austria, England, and Germany, which she knew to be fatal to her designs.

She complained at Vienna that the Austrian Government was less conciliatory, and showed more suspicion, than any other Government; while she said at Berlin that the German Government was even less accommodating than that of Austria, and very likely the same language was held in London, though he believed that, as regards Her Majesty's Government, an attempt at *cajolerie* was being tried by insinuations that if England and Russia were left alone they could easily arrange everything satisfactorily.

I said I had no knowledge of such attempt being made, and still less of the Russians having any grounds for expecting that it would be successful.

Count Andrassy repeated that he knew this to be the Russian game, though he trusted that it might fail, for as long as England and Austria were united, with the support of Germany, upon which he knew they might count, there would be no danger, while we were certain of being defeated if we attempted to act separately.

Her Majesty's Government would find, he said, that Baron Haymerle held to this view as strongly as he did himself, and that the maintenance of the most confidential relations with them and with the Cabinet of Berlin would be the guiding principle of his policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 54.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 549.)
Vienna, August 30, 1879.

My Lord,

BARON KALLAY, the Austro-Hungarian East Roumelian Commissioner, having returned to Vienna, I asked Baron Orczy what he had gathered from him respecting the present state and future prospects of the province.

His Excellency said that, as regards the spirit and disposition of the populations, M. Kallay's report was extremely satisfactory.

He had visited parts of the province where he had been surprised to witness the harmony already prevailing between the Christians and Mahommedans, of whom large numbers had returned, while others were preparing to do so.

The Christians raised no difficulties about the return of these refugees, who, upon their side, said they had no complaint to make of maltreatment.

Your Lordship will find in this the confirmation of what the Mussulmans continually affirmed, even during the time of the bitterest persecution, when they declared that they were not afraid of their Christian neighbours, with whom they had always dwelt in amity, and that they knew their sufferings to be solely due to the strangers and foreigners who had come in to sow hatred between them.

What makes M. Kallay's report of the state of the country that he saw the more encouraging is the fact of its still being, according to his statement, absolutely without any Administration.

The people, he says, are living quietly and without disorder in the absence of any kind of authority placed over them, for the Government of Philippopoli had done, and is doing, nothing to reorganize the Administration; but, satisfactory as this may be in one respect, it leads to a consideration which makes M. Kallay take a desponding view of the future prospects of the province, owing to the hopeless incompetency of the Governor-General, whom he states to be wanting in every quality requisite for the ruler of a country, into which, after two years of anarchy, a regular Administration has to be introduced.

It is not, M. Kallay states, Aleko Pasha's acts and proceedings that are alone complained of, but his hopeless apathy and neglect of business are such that the Bulgarians themselves, in spite of the favours he has shown them, have now become scarcely less dissatisfied with him than the Greeks and Mussulmans, and may very possibly exhibit this before long in a manner that may make him anxious to quit his post.

Having myself witnessed the incapacity of Aleko Pasha while employed at the Porte, I think it probable that M. Kallay's account of it is not exaggerated. Of the necessity that there was for the recall of General Vitalis he entertains no doubt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 55.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 2.*)

(No. 551.)
Vienna, August 30, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Austrian Government have received from St. Petersburgh a communication about the frontier at Arab-Tabia similar to that mentioned in your yesterday's telegram.

It does not contain the clause which, as I informed your Lordship, Baron Orczy believed to be in it for referring the ultimate decision on the question to a majority of the Cabinets, and Count Andrassy expressed himself upon it precisely in the same way as your Lordship, saying that its acceptance would be a simple capitulation of the Powers before the single opposition of Russia, and that the proposal could not, he thought, even be taken into consideration as it now stands.

Upon my inquiring what would be his opinion if the Russian Government amended their proposal, and accepted an ultimate decision by majority, he said he would, in that case, concert with your Lordship upon the answer to be returned.

He did not, however, much like the notion of submitting the report of distin-

guished officers to the examination of a set of civil engineers, who would be ready to proclaim their ability to throw a bridge over the Danube anywhere.

The only question that could be asked such a Commission was—which is the best position for a bridge to the east of Silistria, without regard to "banlieue" or anything else?

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 56.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 553.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August* 30, 1879.

WHEN I spoke this morning to Count Andrassy he said that, having only just returned, he was not sufficiently acquainted with what had been going on on the Montenegrin Frontier Commission to express an opinion on the Russian proposal, conveyed in Lord Dufferin's telegram No. 131 to your Lordship, and repeated to me yesterday, but he would at once examine the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 57.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 555.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August* 30, 1879.

COUNT ANDRASSY says that he inclines very much to the opinion expressed in your Lordship's telegram to Mr. Consul-General Michell, which was repeated to me yesterday, in favour of the adjournment of the East Roumelian Commission till the regulations for the administration of the other Turkish provinces are ready to be laid before it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 58.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 925.)
My Lord, *Paris, September* 1, 1879.

IN answer to an inquiry from me, M. Waddington told me yesterday that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires had communicated to him the new proposal as to referring the question of Arab-Tabia to a Commission of civil engineers.

His Excellency added that he had informed M. de Kapnist that the French Government would be guided by the views of the other Powers in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 59.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 641.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 1, 1879.

OSMAN PASHA has been removed from his post of Commander of Imperial Guard, and replaced by Dervish Pasha. This is, I suspect, the first step towards his fall as Minister of War.

Fuad Pasha goes in command of four army corps, in place of Dervish. The appointment is a good one. He is on very good terms with Baker.

No. 60.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 642.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 1, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 234, Safvet Pasha has received a letter from the Russian Ambassador, inclosing a telegram from Grand Duke Michael, promising that Turkish Commission for the delimitation of Asiatic frontier shall be sent off at once, to carry on the work on the spot.

At my suggestion, Safvet Pasha has directed Turkish Commissioner to agree with Colonel Clarke as to answer to be given, which will probably be that the Porte will send its Commissioner on the understanding that question of point near Karaourgan shall be reserved.

Colonel Clarke is to see Turkish Commissioner at once, and will furnish explanation required by Lord Dufferin by telegraph.

No. 61.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 643.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 1, 1879.

AS authorized by Queen, I conveyed to Sultan yesterday Her Majesty's congratulations on the anniversary of his accession. He begged me to return his grateful acknowledgments to Her Majesty, and to say that he was greatly touched by the kind interest she had always taken in him and his people.

No. 62.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 76.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 1, 1879.

WITH reference to Lord Dufferin's telegram of the 28th, the Turks will maintain their point, but I am of opinion that their arguments at best are weak, and cannot be supported by us with success. Details by messenger. The strongest arguments for my point X are those in the Protocols (to which the Russians should be held), where it [?] appears that this point was indicated to me as the termination of the previous frontier, and that the Russian Commissioner did not raise any objection to it as such until I had agreed to accept it. Also that the point which the Russians now seek to establish on the parallel belongs to the trace directed upon the point Y, which has been abandoned as inconsistent with Treaty of Berlin. This latter is very important.

No. 63.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 482.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 2, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copy of a despatch from Major Gordon, Her Majesty's Commissioner for the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia, with regard to the delay which has occurred in the preparation of the maps required by the Commission, and promised by the Russian Commissioner.*

I also inclose copy of the instruction which I have addressed to Major Gordon upon this subject, and of which the substance has been transmitted to him by telegraph.†

Although, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it is not an absolute

* See Part XI., No. 461. † Ibid., No. 523.

necessity that the Commission should attach a map to the final act of delimitation, yet such a map would undoubtedly render the work more complete.

Your Excellency is requested, therefore, to bring the matter to the notice of the Russian Government, and to urge that instructions should be sent to their Commissioner and topographers to press forward the work with as little delay as possible.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 64.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 61. Political.) *Canea, Crete, August 25, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship an incident of little importance in itself, but well illustrating the turbulent character of the Cretans, and their impatience of the impunity which usually attends the commission of crime.

A Mussulman had murdered a Christian a few days ago in the neighbourhood of Réthymo, and was immediately apprehended by the police. The peasantry, excited at the news, assembled to the number of 200, and demanded the instant execution of the assassin. The police succeeded in preventing the rescue of their prisoner by the angry crowd, who, disappointed of their prey, laid hands on another Mussulman, whom they declared their intention of keeping as a hostage till justice should be satisfied by the blood of the murderer.

Photiades Pasha ordered two companies of regular troops to be dispatched from Réthymo in all haste to the scene of the disturbance, and their presence effectually quelled the resistance of the rioters, the police rescuing the hostage and capturing several of the ringleaders.

These illegal proceedings afford a significant commentary on the course of justice as usually pursued in Crete. Of the hundreds of murders which during late years have been witnessed here few of the perpetrators have been apprehended, fewer convicted of their crime, and not one sentenced to death. Hence the resolution now exhibited by the people of taking the law into their own hands, which has been happily frustrated by the timely measures of the Pasha. I urged on his Excellency the importance of the extreme penalty of the law being inflicted on the accused if convicted of the murder, which might well be followed up by a similar sentence on the first Christian assassin who shall fall into the hands of justice.

Photiades Pasha is sincerely grieved at the state in which he finds the judicial Tribunals in Crete, the elections of the Judges composing which are now going on in the different districts. Seeing that by the Cretan Constitution the Judges (with the exception of the Presidents) are chosen by the people, his Excellency early saw that it was a point of capital importance to appoint an eminent lawyer to the post of President of the Court of Appeal, whose judgments would command the unqualified respect of both Judges and people. Such a person it has been the Vali's good fortune to find in the person of M. Scaltsouni, one of the ablest jurists in Greece, whose diploma was obtained from Paris, and who was for many years consulting lawyer of the Laurium Mines Company. M. Scaltsouni would have entered on the duties of his post long before this but for the unexplained delay on the part of the Porte in confirming his appointment, no reasonable objection to which can be adduced from the moment that the Pasha's nominee is willing to assume Ottoman nationality. As the Cretan General Assembly has been authorized to draw up a code of civil and criminal procedure, it is a matter of the highest moment to secure the co-operation for that work of a man of M. Scaltsouni's legal attainments, and I have suggested to the Vali the propriety of waiving the formality of the Porte's confirmation, seeing that the interests of the entire community are suffering by the long delay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 65.

Captain Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 30.) *Servian Boundary Commission, Foreign Office, September 2, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I received, on the 25th ultimo, through Mr. Gould, your instructions by telegraph directing me to proceed to England with my party.

I accordingly left Belgrade on the 26th ultimo, accompanied by three men of the Royal Engineers, and arrived in London on the 30th ultimo.

Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, Coldstream Guards, was unable to leave Belgrade on account of sickness, but will probably arrive in London on or before the 8th instant.

The original series of maps signed by all the Commissioners, illustrating the new Servian frontier marked out by the Commission, have been brought to England, and I request your Lordship's permission to have them copied by the photo-zincograph process, and to distribute copies to the several Commissioners, the original set of maps being eventually deposited with the archives of the Commission.

I have made arrangements with the War Office authorities for the three Royal Engineers attached to the Commission to rejoin their corps from this date.

Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg will cease to draw Commission pay from the 31st ultimo.

The preparation of my final reports, disposal of stores, and settlement of accounts with the War Office, will occupy me at the Foreign Office till the 8th instant, after which date I will cease to draw pay from the Commission, and the accounts of the Servian Boundary Commission will be finally closed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 66.

Memorandum communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Barthélemi, September 3.

LE Cabinet Impérial de Russie a fait connaître à plusieurs reprises sa manière de voir au sujet de la route militaire Turque qu'il s'agirait de tracer à travers la Roumélie Orientale et la Bulgarie.

Il vient d'apprendre que la Commission de Délimitation des Balkans voudrait procéder au tracé de cette route, qu'elle jugerait opportune, malgré la protestation du Délégué Russe.

Le Cabinet Impérial vient faire un nouvel appel aux sentiments de justice du Cabinet Britannique en le priant d'inviter son Délégué à s'abstenir de tout vote de nature à menacer la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale de l'établissement d'une route militaire Turque dont le danger a été suffisamment signalé par le Gouvernement Impérial.

Londres, le $\frac{22 \text{ Août}}{3 \text{ Septembre}}$, 1879.

No. 67.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3, 10 A.M.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 3, 1879, 6·15 A.M.*

COUNT TORNIELLI is to arrive here on the 23rd instant on a special mission from the Italian Government, with letters accrediting him as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. The object of the mission is not known.

No. 68.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3, 3·45 P.M.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 3, 1879, 1·30 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs returned last night. He informs me that the Albanian refugee question is satisfactorily settled. A favourable reply will be addressed to the Turkish note on the subject, and Colonel Horvartowitch (an excellent choice) at once granted full power to make such arrangements as he may deem fit for the return to Servia of those who may petition to that effect.

(Above communicated to Constantinople.)

No. 69.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 3, 1879, 4·30 P.M.*

MM. BOERESCO and Catargi called on me last week.

They propose adoption into the Constitution of the language of the Treaty, at the same time retaining provisions under which persons born in Roumania of Jewish parents cannot become Roumanian citizens except by a special law passed for each case.

I replied that this could not be looked upon as any satisfaction of the Treaty.

They also propose a nominal list of emancipation, but this is a mere act of favour, not involving any admission of the principle laid down by the Treaty.

I pressed upon them that, if sudden emancipation of whole native-born population was impossible, what we required was a guarantee for gradual but complete application of principle in the future.

I believe M. Waddington has given an equally discouraging reply.

No. 70.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 139.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 3, 1879, 3·4 P.M.*

ANSWER of Austrian Government to the Russian proposal about Arab-Tabia is that, as it contains no provision for the final settlement of the question by the decision of the majority of the Cabinets, nothing would be gained by agreeing to it.

I understand the answer to imply that the Austrian Government would not object to the nomination of the Technical Commission to examine comparative merits of the two positions for bridge advocated by the majority and minority of the Commission last year, provided that it is agreed that their report is to be referred either to the Bulgarian Frontier Commission or to the Embassies at Constantinople for final decision by a majority of votes.

No. 71.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 121.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 3, 1879, 7·30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING is substance of reply given to Russian Chargé d'Affaires about Silistrian bridge:—

"I do not very clearly understand the precise meaning of the new Russian proposition communicated by M. Bartholomei, August 27.

"It appears to mean that the disputed question is to be taken out of the hands of the International Commission named under the Treaty, and remitted to another Commission, to be called a 'Commission Technique.' In what this would differ from the existing Commission is not stated. The present Commissioners, being highly-

educated engineers, possess all the technical knowledge required for performing the duty assigned to them by the Treaty. Any other Commission that was appointed could only differ from them in this respect by being less fully qualified. I can see no advantage in making such a change, which would be outside the provisions of the Treaty, and would involve the withdrawal of European confidence from a Commission recognized by the Treaty in order to repose it in a Commission of which the Treaty knows nothing, and whose projected composition is not even now defined."

No. 72.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Trotter.

(No. 22.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 3, 1879.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 25, Political, of the 8th ultimo, relative to the proceedings of the Council of Reforms which has been convoked for the Vilayet of Erzeroum.

I have to express to you my approval of the advice which you gave to a deputation of the Armenian community in regard to the participation of their Delegates in this Council, as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 73.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 574.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 3, 1879.*

THE following is the substance of the reply which I have given to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in regard to the Russian proposal about the new bridge over the Danube at Silistria:—

I do not very clearly understand the precise meaning of the new proposal of Russia, which was communicated to me by M. Bartholomei on the 27th August. It appears to imply that the question in dispute is to be taken out of the hands of the International Commission named under the Treaty of Berlin, and to be remitted to another Commission, to be called a "Commission Technique." In what this new Commission would differ from the existing Commission is not stated. The members of the International Commission, being highly educated engineer officers, possess all the technical knowledge required for performing the duties assigned to them by the Treaty, and any other Commission which might be appointed could only differ from them in this respect by being less fully qualified to carry out the work. There appears to me to be no advantage to be gained in making a change which has not been provided for by the Treaty, and would involve the withdrawal of European confidence from a Commission which has been recognized by the Treaty, in order to repose it in a Commission of which the Treaty is entirely ignorant and the projected composition of which is left undefined.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 74.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 74.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 27, 1879.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 13 of yesterday's date, I have the honour herewith to forward a copy (1 verst to the inch) of the Karaourgan frontier, from the signed map in the possession of the Turkish Commissioner.

On the original map (scale, 2 versts to the inch) the frontier is very roughly and carelessly marked by parallel bands of green and red chalk, ¼ inch wide over all, the

line of contact of the two colours being blurred and difficult to distinguish; but the red-chain dotted line shown on the accompanying copy represents within certain limits the line of contact of the two colours which should mark the frontier. At the best it is only approximative.

To my mind, and the gist of my representations to your Lordship has been that, the line of frontier represented by the chain-dotted line, after it once leaves the crest, has always appeared objectionable: first, because it is directed towards the well-known Russian point "Y," on the erased frontier; and, secondly, because it is in disagreement with the project of frontier (see inclosure in my No. 23) drawn up by the Russo-Turkish Commission, which distinctly says that the line of frontier south of Yenikeui remains on the "ligne de partage des eaux;" which is not the case with the line in question, as it leaves the watershed and descends towards the valley.

In my humble judgment the yellow line, shown on the tracing north and south of X, represents most nearly the intentions of the Signatory Powers, who declare in the Treaty that the frontier shall pass through a point near to and west of Karaourgan, and that thence it should be directed upon Medjingert, *i.e.*, in a direction nearly eastward.

In consequence of the proximity of the frontier at this point to the Ziwin position, ground is just as important to Turkey as to Russia. Looking at the matter as a soldier, I should not be disposed to recommend any concession whatever from the strict and equitable interpretation of the Treaty; but if there are reasons of general policy which induce your Lordship to grant slight concessions, then, in that case, I see no grave military objection to the frontier following the green chain-dotted line. But I am of opinion that if this green line were overstepped a continuation of the brace might perforce pass through points which might affect the defence of the Ziwin position.

The opinion which I have here submitted for your Lordship's consideration receives implied confirmation in the anxiety of General Milliutine to obtain better terms than those to which his Government is entitled by the Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 75.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 4.)

(No. 211.) *Athens, August* 27, 1879.

My Lord,

M. CONDOURIOTIS has reported that the Turkish and Greek Commissioners met in Conference at Constantinople on the 22nd instant.

The latter expressed the desire to reopen the negotiations at the point at which they were broken off at Prevesa, taking as a basis the line of frontier suggested at Berlin.

The Turkish Commissioners undertook to answer the proposal of their colleagues at a meeting to be held to-morrow, as they were without instructions on the point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 76.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 4.)

(No. 213.) *Athens, August* 28, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Greek Minister at Constantinople has informed M. Delyanni that the Greek Commissioners, at the request of their Ottoman colleagues, had consented that the meeting, which was to have taken place to-day, should be postponed to the 31st instant.

M. Condouriotis adds that it is understood that, although the Porte will decline to acknowledge that any obligation is imposed upon Turkey by the 13th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin, still, in deference to the Powers who signed it, the Porte will consent to negotiate on the basis of the line recommended by them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 77.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 4.)

(No. 64.) *Buyukdéré, August* 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that a meeting of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission was held yesterday at Therapia, when the following proceedings took place with regard to the concession to Turkey of a military route through Bulgaria:—

On the postponed question being brought before the meeting by the President, he inquired if the Russian Commissioner had yet received the instructions which he was supposed to await.

Colonel Bogalubow replied that he had not received them, and stated, as before, that if the question were brought officially before the Commission he should retire; but he proposed that a conversation should take place for the purpose of ascertaining the views of members as to the particular road, with the proviso that the conversation should be entirely unofficial and not recorded in the Protocols, and he argued for a long time in favour of this mode of proceeding.

For my part, I observed that I did not see the propriety of the Commission entering into conditions to suit the purposes of a particular member; that I considered the discussions of the Commission could not be other than official, and that I refused to engage in any other.

The vote on the question of the competence of the Commission was then taken. Four Commissioners affirmed its competence; the German and Italian Commissioners at first reserved their votes, but finally joined the majority. The Russian Commissioner did not vote. He did not, however, leave the room, but announced that his presence thenceforward was quite unofficial, and that he should take only the part of a spectator.

Several Commissioners (of whom I was not one, being convinced that he was acting of set purpose, and not considering it fitting to solicit his forbearance) endeavoured by argument to convince him that his course, while embarrassing to the Commission, did not better secure his object than would a final abstention from voting, but without success.

I stated my opinion that we should proceed with the matter notwithstanding his declaration, and Tahir Pasha being invited (as on a former occasion) to indicate the road which might be considered by the Turkish Government best suited to the purpose, traced that from Tatar-Bazardjik to Samakow, with branches thence to Djuma and Egri-Palanka.

The Commission would have proceeded thereupon to vote, and it was evident that this road would have been agreed to by the majority had not the German and Italian Commissioners pointed out that the business was now so far advanced that it might be finally settled in a very short time, and that, therefore, it would be well to await the possible conclusion of negotiations pending between the Governments before coming to a decision.

In this I concurred, with the proviso that not a moment should be lost in concluding the matter when the rest of our business should be finished, which was agreed to by all (except the Russian), and the question so stands at present.

On the President subsequently asking the Russian Commissioner a question as to the progress of the Russian topographers on the Macedonian frontier, about which he had undertaken to inquire, he replied that, having declared his presence at the séance unofficial, he declined to give any information. I then declared that, in my view, no Commissioner could at his pleasure divest himself of his official character, and that I should continue to consider his presence official. At this he rose, in a heat (probably affected), took his hat, and seemed about to leave the room, but, returning, complained that his colleagues, and particularly myself, desired his absence. He probably wished to be invited to remain; he was not, however; and I repeated the words I had used, and also commented on his want of courtesy in refusing to answer the President's question. This he subsequently replied to by saying he had no other information on the subject.

I find that the President and other members have great doubts whether an International Commission can proceed to a vote in the absence of a member, even if that absence be voluntary; at any rate, they think a vote determining that they shall so proceed will be a necessary preliminary. In my view, it will be well that any determination on this subject shall only be come to after all the other business is closed.

That business now consists only of the definition to be given to the term "thalweg," on which the Italian Commissioner desires to await a communication from his Government, and the settlement of the Macedonian portion of the frontier, the Act delimiting which is already agreed to. As Major Ardagh may be expected in a few days with the remainder of the map, it is considered better to wait for it than to dispense with it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 78.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 933.)
Paris, September 3, 1879.

My Lord,

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 1107 of the 26th ultimo, I spoke to M. Waddington on the 30th ultimo, in the sense of Captain Sale's despatch of the 9th of that month with regard to the settlement of that portion of the new Montenegrin frontier line which is between the Scutari Lake and the sea.

I communicated to his Excellency the extracts from the unsigned Protocol which froms the inclosure to Captain Sale's despatch, and after pointing out the latter's objection to the Russian project as bringing the frontier line still closer to Scutari, and his remarks as to the strategical importance to the Montenegrins of the Mountain Petubala for offensive purposes, I said that as the Commissioners were divided on the matter, and as the French Commissioner, who had voted for the proposed Russian line, seemed to have no special instructions on the point, his Excellency would perhaps, after my explanations, be inclined to direct him to vote with his British and Austrian colleagues for the line proposed by Captain Sale.

M. Waddington informed me this afternoon that after an examination of the French Commissioner's Report, and after having considered the matter, he did not feel himself justified in ordering his Commissioner to alter his vote. His Excellency said that the latter did not attach the same importance as Captain Sale to the point in question.

On my again laying stress upon the English Commissioner's arguments, M. Waddington ultimately promised that due weight should be given to them in a communication which he would cause to be addressed to the French Commissioner, but he repeated that, as at present advised, he would not order him to alter his vote.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 79.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 3, 1879.*

CALICE is not opposed to acceptance of Russian proposal about Montenegrin frontier mentioned in your telegram No. 119, if it is to be understood as applicable to frontier to the east of lake, as well as that to the west of it. He says that village of Planica lies much further up the lake than position assigned to it on the Austrian Map, and that it would not be easy to reconcile divergence between words of Treaty and the map without reference to Powers or their Ambassadors.

No. 80.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 3, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 55 and 56, instructions were sent on the 31st ultimo to Italian Commissioner at Philippopolis to discuss French motion, and to vote with majority.

No. 81.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September 3, 1879.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has read to me declaration of Ottoman Commissioners delivered 31st ultimo. In first part they show why the terms of Protocol 13 are not obligatory on Porte.

In second part they agree to admit terms of that Protocol as a first basis of negotiation, with the reservation that either party in conference should be allowed to modify either extreme points of new line of frontier.

Greek Commissioners have been instructed to declare at meeting [group wrong] that the question of obligatory nature of Protocol of Berlin on Porte is not within their competence to discuss; it is one between Porte and Great Powers.

As to second part of declaration, Greek Commissioners are to press for categorical answer as to acceptance of basis proposed by them and the renewal of negotiations at point broken off at Preveza.

(Copy sent to Constantinople.)

No. 82.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 3, 1879, 10·35 P.M.*

MY despatch No. 70, dated 10th of August, has been borne out by subsequent facts. Russian Government has refused in decided terms to make any alteration in the frontier between Artwin and Narinan, so that frontier as it stands is inconsistent with spirit and wording of Treaty.

There appear to be two courses open to the Porte:—

1. Submission of case to independent arbitration.
2. Call notice of Signatory Powers to the evasion of Treaty.

Turks seem disposed to try arbitration in the first instance, and for this purpose there are numerous military Commissioners now at Constantinople available. Matter in dispute is some 80 square miles of territory, but the principle involved is objectionable. In this frontier [?] Russians are taking a very arbitrary position.

Beg your Lordship's instructions as to advice to be given to Turkish Commissioner.

No. 83.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4, 1·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 4, 1879, 10 A.M.*

I HAVE received your telegram regarding complaints of Governor-General of Philippopolis about the territory said to be withheld. I have been informed that the new frontier cuts the territories in question so as to leave the towns of Kotel and Ichtiman on the Turkish side, and some of the accessible lands and villages on the other. If so, the matter can be easily arranged; but I will represent it to the Bulgarian Government immediately on my return to head-quarters.

No. 84.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1142.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 4, 1879.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Jeddah has forwarded to me a copy of his despatch to your Excellency No. 31 of the 6th ultimo relative to the unfitness of the present Kaïmakam of that town for the office which he holds.

If your Excellency has not already done so, I should wish you to call the attention of the Porte to the facts reported by M. Zohrab.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 85.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1143.)
Foreign Office, September 4, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 735 of the 17th ultimo, stating that you have represented to the Porte the necessity of maintaining an efficient garrison at Jeddah. Your Excellency's action in the matter has the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 86.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 124.)
Foreign Office, September 4, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 168 of the 14th ultimo, and I have to express to you my approval of the representations you have addressed to the Bulgarian Government with the view of securing proper protection for Major Ardagh and his party while engaged in the survey of the frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 87.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 53.)
Foreign Office, September 4, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 175 of the 14th ultimo, forwarding copy of a Declaration which the French Commissioner intends to propose for adoption by the Commission in regard to the establishment of a Customs line along the Balkan frontier of Eastern Roumelia.

I approve your intention of supporting the motion of the French Commissioner as stated in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 88.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 5.*)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.)
Filibé, September 4, 1879.

RETURNED from journey mentioned in my telegram No. 68. Found matters in that district very serious. The Turks scarcely dare to leave their houses in [groups wrong, ? Tatar-Bazardjik], but there will soon be few houses left, as they are being burned down every night.

I witnessed a great fire in the Turkish quarter last night. Whenever a refugee claims his house from a Bulgarian it is burnt down.

Five hundred refugees have no bread. The Bulgarians will give them no work. They continue to be searched for arms, although orders [two groups wrong] have at last been carried out at Philippopolis.

The Prefect of department I visited is powerless, and the local representatives of

National Committee, who seem awake to the danger of alienating the sympathies of Europe, are equally unable to control Bulgarians.

I saw 1,000 gymnasts, armed with rifles, going to drill, headed by Bulgarian officer commanding militia, and flanked by militia sergeants. This occurs all the country (*sic*) twice or thrice a week.

There is even little security for the Bulgarians themselves. Two were shot close to the high road a few hours before I passed, and not far from town, where I saw three bodies. One of them had been robbed of a considerable sum of money. As there are no Turkish villages near, and the Turks are not allowed to carry arms, the crime must have been committed by Bulgarians, who knew their circumstances.

One [? person] also had been mutilated, and another murdered, in a village close to the town I visited.

A riot occurred here Sunday last. Bulgarian militiamen attacked some Turks. A rescue being attempted, the militiamen mustered strongly, and wounded thirty or forty Turkish men and women with swords, bayonets, and rifle shots. Four militiamen were wounded, others bruised. No one killed.

About fifty Turkish men and a woman came to the Consulate for [? protection], and one Turk insisted on remaining the night.

The Turks have been afraid to leave their houses until to-day, when principal men came to me for aid and advice.

The Turkish Commissioners have long ceased to hold communication with Governor-General, and are, therefore, unable to assist their countrymen. There is great excitement [groups wrong] among Turks.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 89.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 5.*)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.)
Filibé, September 5 [?], 1879.

THE Turkish population may be driven to desperation by the [? constant outrage]s and the absence of protection.

The Commission being at present practically impotent to redress their wrongs, or to obtain any other improvement in the administration, it certainly appears advisable to adjourn, but for a limited period, say three weeks, and to [*] Assembly if necessary in order to continue work under more favourable circumstances. Meanwhile the Governor-General may take warning, and the new Commander of the militia may be able to effect some improvement.

Turkish Commissioners intend taking a fortnight's leave from Saturday. Russian Delegate being absent, Commission will only meet to-day.

No. 90.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 5, 11 A.M.*)

(No. 76.)
(Telegraphic.)
Philippopolis, September 4, 1879, 8·15 P.M.

FRENCH motion respecting customs was carried at sitting to-day against Italian and Russian.

My declaration regarding violation of Article No. 8 was adhered to by the majority conditionally on the violation being a fact. French and [? Turks] adhered entirely to my declaration respecting the gymnastic societies, and all the others, excepting the Russian, gave more or less direct adherence. Russian Commissioner said that they were legal and did no harm.

The Commission has adjourned until again convoked by Ambassadors in concert with the Porte.

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* Groups wrong.

No. 91.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 5, 3 P.M.)

(No. 615.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 5, 1879, 11·40 A.M.*

ORDERS have been sent by the Porte to the Governor of Province of Kossova to send Turkish troops into the district of Novi-Bazar simultaneously with the Austrian forces, which the Porte understands amount to 4,000 men.

I have strongly urged upon Safvet Pasha the importance of Turkish and Austrian troops being placed together, so that Mussulman population may be reconciled to appearance of the Austrian troops, and understand that it is in no way hostile to the Porte.

No. 92.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 107. Political.)
Scutari, August 23, 1879.

My Lord,

IN my despatches Nos. 102 and 103 of the 27th ultimo and 4th instant, I had the honour to express to your Lordship the belief that the existing disorders in North-East Albania would not degenerate into conflicts between Mahommedans and Christians, and to repel the attempt being made in certain quarters to tax the Austrian Consular authorities with fomenting the general disturbance.

The local customs and laws which afford such an excellent basis for endowing this country with a satisfactory administration have enabled the Chiefs of Ipek and Jacova to calm the excitement which had arisen when the Bosnian refugee noble was murdered.

It having transpired that the assassins were probably Mahommedans, the operations against the Miridite Fandis were suspended, and a general assembly of Chiefs was convoked, in which the Chiefs of Christian tribes were, as usual, allowed to take part on a perfect equality with the Moslems.

The three suspected murderers were arrested, tried, and found guilty. Two were hung, the third having in the interval effected his escape, and a Decree was issued directing complete and entire restitution to be made to the pillaged Fandi families.

Confidence and order have thus once more been established around Ipec and Jacova, but, as is apparent from the letters recently received by the Montenegrin Boundary Commission warning it, in the name of the "Committee for securing the welfare of Goussinié," not to venture in the vicinity of purely Albanian districts, the Ottoman authorities are still supposed not to be exercising any jurisdiction in North-East Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 93.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 108. Political.)
Scutari, August 24, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Ali Haidar Pasha arrived here the day before yesterday without having announced his coming, and that Hussein Pasha immediately handed over to him the government and military command of the vilayet.

Hussein Pasha left yesterday for Dulcigno, where he will embark on the 26th on board the Austrian packet for Constantinople.

The Albanians have witnessed with the greatest apathy the change of Governors, and have thus again given proof that they are prepared to accept unquestioned whatever measures the Porte may order to be carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 94.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 109. Political.)
Scutari, August 26, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 104, Political, of the 5th instant, I have the honour to report that Colonel Becker was summoned last week to Cettigné, where, during a stay of three days, he was in frequent communication with M. Jonine, the Russian Minister Resident.

I am informed that Colonel Despotovic, another prominent Slavophil, and who commanded a considerable band of insurgents in Bosnia before the entry of the Austrians, is now at Cettigné.

M. Piat, the Frenchman as whose representative Colonel Becker arrived in this country, has also been in Scutari for the last fortnight, but he is leaving immediately for the Lower Danube, where he has important engineering engagements with the Russian Government.

I am hardly disposed to believe that M. Piat's visit to Albania was really undertaken with the object of obtaining the concession for the canalization of the River Bovana, and it is more likely that he consented to lend his name in order to cover Colonel Becker's appearance here.

The Turkish Government has evidently come to the same conclusion, as Colonel Becker has now been ordered to leave the country, and he tells me, without mentioning the reason for his departure, that he intends to reside for some time to come at Cettigné.

There can be no doubt that Montenegro is as good a centre as Scutari whence to carry on political intrigues, not only against Turkey but also against Austria, and, therefore, the removal of Colonel Becker from here is not likely to prove of much value.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 95.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 21. Political.)
Podgoritza, Montenegro, August 23, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour, in extension of my telegram of yesterday's date, to inclose translations in French of two letters received on the evening of the 21st instant, and purporting to come from the Chiefs of the Albanian League.

The Turkish Commissioners, and also the Austrian Commissioner, who is intimately acquainted with the Turkish language, assure me that the seals affixed to the letters are genuine, and that the letters themselves are what they pretend to be—a communication from the Chiefs of the Albanian League.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.,*
Commissioner.

Inclosure 1 in No. 95.

Lettre à MM. les Commissaires des Grandes Puissances pour la Délimitation du Monténégro, datée à Gusinje le 3 Août (v.s.), 1295.

(L'original de cette lettre est en Turc.)

Excellences,

NOUS avons appris que vous avez été délégués par vos Gouvernements respectifs pour la délimitation du Monténégro, et que vous êtes arrivés à votre destination. La délimitation ne saurait s'effectuer sans l'assentiment de toute l'Albanie et le concours des Chefs et Bayraktars,* possédant des pleins pouvoirs, réguliers et signés. Déter-

* *Lit.*, standard bearers.

miner sans cela la frontière suivant les vues, le désir, et les intrigues du Monténégro, serait nul, et sans le concours des Chefs et Bayraktars de notre Albanie nous ne consentirons pas même à la cession d'une palme de notre territoire. Nous avons l'honneur, à la suite d'une décision prise entre nous, de vous faire connaître cette situation, pour que vous preniez vos mesures en conséquence.

Le cachet de Gusinje.
Le cachet de la Commission chargée de mener à bonne fin les affaires de Gusinje.
Le cachet du Chef du Bourg de Plavna,
(Nom) FLANZA.
Le cachet du Chef de la Ville et des Nayets de Jakova,
(Nom) MOHAMMED ABDULLAH.
Le cachet du Chef de la Ville et des Nayets d'Ipek,
(Nom) HAIREDDIN.
Le cachet du Chef de la Ville et des Nayets de Prisrend,
(Nom) NUREDDIN.
Le cachet du Chef de la Ville et des Nayets de Dibri,
(Nom) YUSSUF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 95.

Aux Illustres et Révérendissimes Représentants du Sultan et de toutes les Puissances.

NOUS avons appris que vous, MM. les Commissaires des Puissances, êtes venus pour l'affaire de la frontière avec le Monténégro. Or, sans qu'il y ait des représentants de toute l'Albanie vous ne pouvez régler cette frontière; et si quelqu'un vous lit de la faire sans qu'il y ait des envoyés de notre part, sachez que cela ne se peut faire, car nous céderons pas une palme de terrain au Monténégro.

(Sans signatures. L'original est en Albanais.)

No. 96.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 22.)
Podgoritza, August 23, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Commission have now arrived at that part of the new frontier of Montenegro which lies between the Plain of Podgoritza and the district of Gusinge-Plava.

The Commission have been at great pains to acquire a precise knowledge of the existing boundaries and divisions of the tribal territories adjacent to this part of the new frontier.

A memorandum and sketch is attached in which these details are set forth.

The actual state of these divisions is such that it is not possible to carry out exactly the text of Article XXVIII of the Treaty of Berlin, and at the same time to demarcate a frontier which shall be at all satisfactory.

The Montenegrins contend that the so-called Kuci Kraina, as mentioned in the Treaty, has no existence, the word Kraina meaning frontier, and that the term Kuci Kraina signifies simply that portion of the Kuci Drekolovici tribe who happen to be adjacent to the Montenegrin frontier.

But I have convinced myself, after very careful inquiry, that this contention is not just. There is a portion of the tribe of Kuci which is well known as the Kuci Kraina, as distinct from the Kuci Drekolovici, and within this portion is included the four flags or communes of Fondina, Koca, Trieblje, and Orahovo.

It would, therefore, seem simple to follow the actual words of the Treaty, and to so draw the frontier as to give these four communes to Turkey; but the following reasons are strongly against this course:—

1. The pasturages of at least two of these communes are inextricably mixed up with those of the Kuci Drekolovici.

2. The people of Orahovo are allied to the Montenegrins by speech and religion, and sided with Montenegro against Turkey and the Albanian tribes in the last war.

3. The territory of Orahovo nearly, if not quite, touches the old frontier of Montenegro.

4. Turkey does not, and never has, exercised any authority in this district; the people have been without government, and have been free to pursue their vendettas and tribal wars without let or hindrance; whereas the Montenegrins have established an organized Government in that part of the Kuci tribe which has been under their administration.

5. To describe the frontier so as to give the whole of the Kuci Kraina to Turkey, leaving the Kuci Drekolovici to Montenegro, would, in fact, be to draw an arbitrary boundary line right across the territory of a single tribe, whose lands, pasturages, and families are almost inextricably mixed, and to take a frontier quite unsuitable, both from a topographical and a military point of view.

The frontier of the Kuci tribe towards Albania proper is the River Veni. This river runs in a deep valley having precipitous sides, and is remarkably well suited to serve as a frontier.

I am informed by both the Turkish and Austrian Commissioners that negotiations are on foot at Constantinople for the exchange of the Kuci Kraina for that portion of the Gusinge-Plava district which is inhabited by Mussulmans.

If this can be arranged, the very great difficulty of this frontier will be happily settled, but it seems to me that this exchange can hardly be effected.

Failing this exchange, this difficulty presents itself—if I vote for the handing over of the whole of the Kuci Kraina to Turkey, the Commission will probably fix on a boundary radically defective and bad, and also likely to give rise to further troubles.

If, on the other hand, I vote for so drawing the frontier as to give to Turkey all that portion of the Kuci tribe which is allied to Albania by race and religion, I shall be departing from the text of the Treaty, but shall, I believe, be in accordance with its intention.

Under these circumstances, I would ask for telegraphic instructions from your Lordship to let me know if it is permitted to construe the Treaty in this sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*,
Commissioner.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Memorandum.

THE tribe of Kuci occupy territory between the River Zem and the River Moraca.

The tribe are Albanian by origin, but are, in a great measure, assimilated to the Serb race, both in speech and religion.

That portion of the tribe who are nearest to the Zem River are termed the Kuci Kraina, the word Kraina signifying "frontier."

The remainder of the tribe are termed Kuci Drekolovici. The Kuci Drekolovici are entirely assimilated to the Montenegrins in government, speech, and religion.

The Kuci Kraina are composed of four flags, or communes, viz.:—

1. Fondina, having a total of 105 houses, of which 50 are Orthodox, 20 are Catholic, and 35 Mussulman. Both Albanian and Slav are spoken.

2. Trubje, having a total of 120 houses, all Catholic, speaking Albanian. The inhabitants of 80 houses are refugees in Turkey.

3. Koca, having a total of 52 houses, almost entirely Catholic. The district is almost entirely abandoned, the inhabitants being refugees in Turkey.

4. Orahovo, having a total of 120 houses, almost exclusively Orthodox by religion. This commune joined Montenegro in the war against the Albanian tribes. Slav is the prevailing language, but, to a certain extent, Albanian is also spoken.

The pasturages of Orahovo and Koca extend far into the district marked inhabited by the Kuci Drekolovici, and it does not appear that there are any very clear boundaries between the territories of the several communes of the Kuci tribe.

The pasturage rights are essential to the existence of the tribe, as their possessions are principally in sheep, goats, and cattle.

M. T. SALE, *Commissioner.*

August 23, 1879.

No. 97.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 6, 1879.*

I INTEND, unless you see any objection, to leave on Thursday next, and shall visit Jerusalem, Damascus (where I hope to meet Midhat), some of the places in the Syrian Cararmenian [? Karamanian] coasts, Scio, and Smyrna. As Count Zichy is also going to leave for Vienna in about ten days to communicate with Count Andrassy's successor, my absence will not, I think, lead to any inconvenience; it may, on the contrary, be turned to good account.

As I shall travel [? in my] official capacity, I presume that my expenses will be allowed.

I shall take Nicolson and Sandison with me.

I am persuaded that my presence in the provinces I intend to visit will do a great deal of good, and make the Porte feel that we are serious in our [? determination] that reforms shall be introduced.

No. 98.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, September 6, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Lordship's telegram No. 62.

The Italian Commissioner opposed the French motion, but abstained from voting, except on paragraph 2, which was accepted by him and Russian.

No. 99.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, September 6, 1879.*

I TOLD the Governor-General this morning, in the presence of Exarch, what I saw at Tatar-Bazardjik. His Excellency professed entire ignorance; but this untrue, because military commander had spoken to him yesterday on the subject, and the Secretary-General had telegraphed for information. His Excellency said that as the Prefect was evidently a traitor he would dismiss him immediately.

The Exarch urged such a course, and confirmed my assertion that the Prefec- was in the hands of certain persons, meaning Committee. I warned the Governort General, in the most serious manner, that the Turks were being driven to despair all over the country, and that a catastrophe might ensue on any mismanagement.

Found, on my return to town, court-yard full of Turkish complainants; I took them to the Secretary-General, and declared I would have nothing more to do with them, as it was for the local Government to protect them against the outrages which are increasing daily. I added the Government must take all the responsibility of what would happen if the Turks continued to be outraged.

The Secretary-General replied they had no arms; but I said that would probably [? this being so] tend to aggravate their present existence. The Turks told him, in my presence, that they were better off under the Russian, and would gladly see him back. They also said that the Bulgarians were threatening a general massacre. Some Turks came yesterday from a village in the neighbouring department, asking to be made British subjects, as the Sultan was evidently unable to protect them.

No. 100.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 6, 1879, 2·55 P.M.*

YOURS 78.

I think the Turks are right in proposing to try arbitration in the first instance.

As the trouble is due to concessions corruptly made by their own Delegates, their case is not a strong one for submission to the Signatory Powers.

No. 101.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 70.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 6, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 78 of the 3rd instant relating to the difficulty which has arisen in regard to the Russo-Turkish frontier between Artwin and Nariman. Of the two alternatives which you state to be now open to the Porte, viz., either to submit the case to independent arbitration or to call the notice of the Signatory Powers to the evasion of the Treaty involved in the line of frontier originally traced by the Russian and Turkish Commissioners, the former is, in my opinion, that which would be the wisest for the Porte to adopt, and I have so informed you by telegraph.

The difficulty having arisen from concessions made in consequence either of the carelessness or connivance of the Turkish Delegates, the case is not one on which the Porte would have strong grounds for an appeal to the Signatory Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 102.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 648.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 6, 1879.*

AT the meeting of the Turkish and Greek Commissioners yesterday the latter handed in a further declaration to the effect that they consider the 13th Protocol obligatory, but that this is a matter which does not affect their demand that it should be accepted as the basis for the negotiations. They deny right of Turki'h Commissioners to modify or depart from this basis. They renew their demand that the indications in the Protocols shall be accepted as the basis for negotiations, that is to say, valleys of the Peneus and the Kalamas. They ask for a clear and precise answer to this demand.

The meeting then adjourned.

No. 103.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

Therapia, September 7, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

I THINK it desirable that Mr. Malet should come here during my absence, in case of anything arising. I will leave full instructions for him, and, as I start at once, I hope to be back here at the end of this month or beginning of October.

No. 104.

Captain Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Servian Boundary Commission, Belgrade, August 20, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 25 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the last meeting of the Commission was held on the 19th instant, when it was formally recorded in a Protocol that the delimitation of the new Servian frontier, as laid down in Article XXXVI of the Berlin Treaty was completed, and that the work of the Commission was illustrated by survey plans consisting of twenty-one sheets, a special survey of Prepolac, and four descriptive specifications.

The Commission also prepared a final description of the whole of the new frontier, each Commissioner providing himself with an original copy of this document signed by all the Commissioners.

The Protocols and descriptive specifications are being printed at Belgrade, and copies will be distributed as soon as possible.

As the original survey plans had been prepared by the Royal Engineers attached to the British Commission, at the request of my colleagues I agreed to take these plans

to England, with a view to their being photographed, so that copies might be readily procured for the use of the Commission.

The Commission, after discussion, decided that the archives of the Commission should be deposited provisionally at the French Legation, Belgrade, subject to any future arrangement on this point that may be made by the Signatory Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 105.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 19. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, August 27, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that troops continue to be sent towards the Novi-Bazar frontier, and the entry of the Austrians into that sandjak appears to be imminent. Two battalions of infantry have passed through this town, on the march for Cáñéca, during the past week, and others, I hear, are on the way. Brigadier-General Obadits, latterly in command of the troops in this district, will be intrusted with the command of the expeditionary force.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Würtemberg returned here yesterday from his tour in the Herzegovina. According to information from that province, the greater part of the Pandours stationed along the Montenegrin frontier have deserted, with their arms and equipments, and passed over to Montenegro. I have reason to believe that the journey of the Duke of Würtemberg was in consequence of this desertion. Many persons associate this affair with the impending occupation of Novi-Bazar, but I see no reason to think that there is any connection between the two events. There is no doubt that the sympathies of the Christians of the Herzegovina are more on the side of Montenegro than of Austria, and I dare say the former country is not slow to avail of these sympathies, to cause petty annoyances and difficulties to Austria; but I do not believe that any portion of the Christian population of these provinces will join the Mussulmans of the district of Novi-Bazar in open opposition to the advance of the Austrian troops. The chief instigator of the late desertion of Pandours is said to be a certain Pop Radovic, of Nevesinje, one of the leaders of the insurrection against the Porte, and latterly in receipt of a monthly pay of 50 florins from the Austrian Government.

Here the wildest reports are again current, but my experience of the last four years has shown me how little reliance is to be placed in these extravagant town rumours; only, unfortunately, they serve to keep alive a general feeling of uneasiness amongst all classes. Amongst other things, it is said that the day the Austrian troops enter the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, the Mussulmans of Serajevo will rise in revolt and set fire to the town. As regards any insurrectional movement, the Austrians are quite strong enough to instantly quell it, and as the Christian quarter of this town was almost entirely destroyed during the late conflagration, it is not very likely that the Mussulmans will attempt any incendiary acts from which they themselves would be the chief sufferers. The occupation of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar may not improbably be opposed by the inhabitants of that district, but any rising in Bosnia would only be the sequel of some unforeseen disaster to the Austrian arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 106.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 212.)
Athens, August 27, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 210 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, informing me that Major Colocotroni has been appointed as third Plenipotentiary to act in conjunction with MM. Braïla and Condouriotis in the Conference at Constantinople for the rectification of the Greek frontier.

Major Colocotroni will leave Athens for Constantinople on the 31st instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 106.

M. Delyanni to Mr. Corbett.

Athènes, le $\frac{13}{25}$ Août, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

ME référant à la note que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous adresser le 31 Mai dernier, pour vous annoncer la nomination de MM. A. G. Condouriotis et P. Braïla Armeni en qualité de Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Royal, chargés de reprendre à Constantinople les négociations de rectifications des frontières rompues à Preveza, je m'empresse de porter à votre connaissance que, la Sublime Porte ayant nommé trois Plénipotentiaires, le Gouvernement du Roi vient de nommer, en qualité de Troisième Plénipotentiaire, dans le but sus-nommé, M. Panos Colocotroni, Major de l'Artillerie et Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté le Roi.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

No. 107.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 216.)
Athens, August 30, 1879.

My Lord,

THE foreign press, especially that of Turkey, having commented upon the supposed fact of 8,000 soldiers having been lately added to the Greek army, I think it right to inform your Lordship that these men have been enrolled to replace, in rotation, an equal number whose completed service of six months with the colours entitles them to their discharge, and that the army at this moment, far from having been increased, does not contain in its ranks the whole number of men voted by the Chamber.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 108.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 368. Confidential.)
Rome, August 29, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 53 of yesterday's date, Count Maffei informed me confidentially, this morning, that it was now impossible for Signor Cairoli to maintain the instructions relative to the Greek question, sent by his predecessor to the Italian Ambassador at Constantinople.

He said that a despatch has since been addressed to Count Corti embodying the formal declarations made by the President of the Council to the Chamber, as also to Sir Augustus Paget, as reported in his Excellency's despatch No. 348 of the 29th ultimo.

That document, Count Maffei added, clearly conveys a return to those principles proclaimed by Italy and France at Berlin, and which constitute an European engagement; consequently Count Corti must, for the present, be guided by the views therein expressed, and further instructions will be sent to him as soon as the Italian Government have been informed of the manner in which the other Powers propose to deal with the question of mediation, which will inevitably arise if the present negotiations prove, as it is anticipated, unsuccessful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 109.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 563.)
Vienna, September 3, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE asked Baron Calice whether the Imperial Government had made up their mind upon the Russian proposal, mentioned in your Lordship's telegram of the 29th ultimo, for the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier.

He said that there was some ambiguity in the wording of the proposal, which left it uncertain whether it referred merely to the work already done by the Commission upon the frontier between the Lake of Scutari and the sea, or whether it was

to apply equally to the work that the Commission is now about to undertake, on the frontier to the east of the lake.

If it applies to the latter as well as to the former, he would not be indisposed to accept the proposal as a means of overcoming the difficulties which the Commission will find in dealing with a portion of the frontier where there is a marked discrepancy between the words of the Treaty and the line traced at Berlin upon the map, for it has turned out not only that Planica is situated very much further up the lake than the position in which it was marked, but also that if the line traced on the map is adhered to, a part of the territory of the Hotti, which the Treaty reserves to Turkey, would be included within the Montenegrin frontier.

He therefore believes that it will be necessary that the solution of this difficulty should be submitted to the decision of the majority of the Cabinets, or of their Ambassadors, at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 110.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 8.)

Podgoritza, September 7, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

COMMISSION have decided to suspend work for the winter. I have not assented to this course, but I am alone in opposing it.

With your Lordship's sanction, I propose to return by Constantinople to see Ambassador in the matter of proposed exchange of territory near Gussinje Plava.

May I receive instructions by telegram addressed to care of Kirby Green, Scutari?

No. 111.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 8, 12·18 P.M.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.)

Rome, September 8, 1879, 10 A.M.

COUNT TORNIELLI is said to have no special mission to Servia beyond the open negotiations for a Commercial Treaty, but I am led to believe that he may endeavour to influence Servia against Austria.

No. 112.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 586.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, September 8, 1879.

COUNT DEYM, the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, called on the 4th instant to communicate to me the views of Count Andrassy on the new proposal of the Russian Government to appoint a "Commission Technique" to report on the question of the bridge near Silistria.

Count Andrassy, he said, would be disposed to agree to this Commission, but only on the conditions following:—

1. That the Commission should report not only on the practicability of the proposed bridge, but also on the question whether the cost of its construction would not impose too great a burden on the Roumanian Government.

2. That the Report of the Commission having been communicated to the Powers, the question should not be discussed afresh by the Governments, but that the Report should be adopted or rejected either by the majority of the Powers or by the majority of the International Commission, as might be arranged.

The Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at St. Petersburgh has been instructed to communicate the above views to the Russian Government in reply to their proposal made at Vienna.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 113.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 9.)

(No. 135.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, September 8, 1879.

THE Austrian Minister has informed Baron Jomini that, although the Austrian Government considers the Bulgarian Delimitation Commission is the proper one to decide disputed point at Arab-Tabia, and is fully convinced of the impartiality of that Commission, nevertheless Austria would not refuse to accept Russian proposal to refer question to a technical Commission of engineers provided Russia agrees that final decision of a majority shall be binding, and provided that other Cabinets agree to this proposed solution.

The answer of the Emperor has not yet been received, but Austrian Minister tells me Jomini believes Emperor will never consent to accept decision of the majority.

No. 114.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 9.)

(No. 79. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)

Philippopoli, September 8, 1879.

THE Government is thoroughly alarmed at state of affairs. The Exarch sent for a priest from Tatar-Bazardjik, who confirmed all I had said. The Prefect is here, and says my account of Turkish sufferings is exaggerated. General Strecker has, however, been sent to look at the [?] militia in that town.

I visited the prison to-day with the Secretary-General, and found twenty-one Turks, suspected of complicity in the last riots, who had been arrested eight days. The greater part will be released to-day.

The French Commissioner and I have visited the refugees, among whom there is much sickness and great want. There will be great mortality from starvation if nothing be done for them at once.

The Turks are signing petitions to the Great Powers and to the European Commission, complaining of their treatment. They come to me in great numbers, but I can only refer them to the Administration.

The Exarch strongly condemns the incapacity of the Governor-General, and partial language of the Secretary-General.

[Group wrong] Archbishop [?] is addressing a pastoral letter, exhorting the Bulgarians to moderation and humanity.

No. 114 A.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 9.)

(No. 143.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, September 8, 1879.

BARON CALICE will see Rothschild to-morrow, and on Thursday tell me the definite view of his Government respecting Loan Decree.

I think he considers mortgagees prior to February 3 [?] to have such a solid legal position that there is no need for Austria to interfere in the details of the liquidation any more than Her Majesty's Government.

No. 114 B.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 9, 12·45 P.M.)

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, September 9, 1879, 10·25 A.M.

AUSTRIAN troops entered Novi-Bazar Sandjak yesterday.

No. 115.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Sale.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, September 9, 1879, 6·15 P.M.

YOUR despatch 22, under date August 25.

The best arrangement would be that the Commission should record its opinion in

favour of an equitable exchange such as that you suggest, and should then refer to their Governments for sanction.

Failing such an arrangement, you should vote for the line prescribed by the text of the Treaty. If it proves inexpedient, and an indemnity for Turkey can be found, a change can always be made by subsequent negotiations.

No. 116.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(504 A.) *Foreign Office, September 9, 1879.*

Sir,

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires made, on the 8th instant, a communication to me with regard to the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier. M. Bartholomei stated that his Government were of opinion that no time should be lost in putting an end to the dead-lock in which the Commission is now placed.

The proposal of the Italian Commissioner, as amended by the Russian Delegate, not having been accepted, the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh believe that the only practical solution would be that the Commissioners should trace a provisional line on the map, and should submit it to their Governments. When the latter had decided the Commission would return to the spot to fix the frontier definitively in accordance with that decision. The Russian Government are anxious that the several Governments shall at once send instructions in this sense to their several Delegates on the Commission.

I remarked to M. Bartholomei, in reply, that the effect of this proposal would be that the questions in dispute with respect to the frontier of Montenegro would be referred to the decision of the Cabinets. The matter was not one specially interesting to Her Majesty's Government; but, as signatory to the Treaty of Berlin, England naturally desires that all controverted questions of detail should be adjusted with the least possible delay. We should therefore, I said, have decidedly preferred that all these matters should have been left to the decision of the majority of the Commission. It seemed to me that the Cabinets were hardly capable of deciding such questions of detail, and that all they could do would be to support the views of their Delegates. For this reason it was to be feared that the present proposal would not lead to a speedy issue in the case under consideration, any more than the similar plan which had been adopted in the case of the Bulgarian frontier near Silistria.

I added that I had just received information that the Montenegrin Commission had, by a vote of the majority, suspended work for the winter. This resolution had been opposed by the English Delegate, but was supported by that of Russia and carried. The Commission had consequently dispersed, and the course suggested by the Russian Government could, apparently, no longer be followed, as it would not be possible to reassemble all the Delegates.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 117.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Sale.

(No. 24.) *Foreign Office, September 9, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE received, and have had under my consideration, your despatch No. 22 of the 23rd August, relative to the settlement of that portion of the Montenegrin frontier which passes through the country inhabited by the Kuci tribe.

The most satisfactory arrangement, under the circumstances mentioned by you, would be that the Commission of which you are a member should record its opinion in favour of an equitable exchange of territory such as you suggest, namely, that the Kuci Kraina country should be retained by Montenegro, and that, on the other hand, that portion of the Gussinje Plava district which is inhabited by Mussulmans should remain to Turkey. The Commissioners might then refer to their several Governments for instructions to enable them to proceed.

In the event of such an arrangement being found to be impracticable, you should vote for the line of frontier prescribed by the text of the Treaty. In case it be found inexpedient to adopt it, and if an indemnity can be found for Turkey elsewhere, it will always be possible to modify the frontier by subsequent negotiation between the Powers.

I have forwarded to you the substance of the above instruction by telegraph.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 118.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 29. Political.) *Erzeroum, August 19, 1879.*

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 27, Political, of the 16th August, forwarding a despatch from Captain Clayton on the state of the Sandjak of Musch, I alluded to an Armenian document that had been handed to me a few days previously by the Archbishop of Musch, giving on his authority a detailed account of various atrocities and acts of oppression and wrong committed in that province since the beginning of the war.

I now have the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a translation (made by my Secretary, Mr. Cuming), *in extenso*, of the document in question, to which I would beg to draw your Lordship's special attention.

I fear the terrible picture drawn by the Archbishop is only too probably a true one.

I called the attention of the Commissioners this morning to the subject of the memorandum, but Yusuf Pasha had not yet read the document, as he was waiting for a Turkish translation of it. The newly-appointed Governor of Musch, Osman Pasha, late Governor of Batoum, will, I believe, be passing through here shortly on the way to his new government, and I shall not fail to urge on him the necessity of taking seriously in hand the investigation of some of the more glaring crimes noted in the memorandum, and if possible bringing the offenders to punishment.

Yusuf Pasha, under whom Osman Pasha formerly served, gives the latter, I am happy to say, an excellent character.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major,*
Consul for Kurdistan.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Memorandum by the Archbishop of Musch.

(Translation.)

Illustrious Sir,

Memorandum of atrocities committed by barbarous Kurds in the 250 villages comprising the Sandjak of Musch:—

1. The Hassanan tribe, located at Manasgera, oppress the populations of the Cazas of Boulanyk and Achlat.

2. The Seïdanli and Balikli tribes, located in the mountainous district of Kiosur, oppress the populations of the Musch plain and of Boulanyk.

3. The Boy Zadé, Bel Bashi, and Isalik tribes, located in the Musch plain, oppress its populations.

4. The Solakli tribe, located in the Musch plain and at Bolghan, oppress the villagers in the surrounding district. They also lately pillaged the famous Armenian monastery of St. John the Baptist.

5. The Dumlik tribe and the Boys of Genjé oppress the surrounding villagers.

6. The Badikli tribe, located partly in the Musch plain and partly in the Diarbekir Vilayet, oppress the villagers of the Musch plain.

7. The Alman tribe, located in the Musch plain, oppress its villagers.

8. The Gibran tribe, located in the Caza of Varto, with a branch in Keghi, oppress the villagers of the above cazas and those of the Musch plain.

9. The Boulakli tribe, located at Purnashen, oppress its villagers.

10. The Kurds of Tchoukourli oppress the villagers of the surrounding district.

11. The Kurds of Hoyit oppress the villagers of the surrounding district.

12. The Valikan tribe, who spent the summer on the mountains near Musch, and the winter in that town and the neighbouring villages, oppress the inhabitants of said villages.

13. Several tribes of Sassoun greatly oppress the population of that district.

14. The Modki tribe, who are at present in rebellion against the Government, oppress the inhabitants of the surrounding districts.

15. The nomad tribes of Reshkotan, Behran, and Penjenran, every summer oppress the inhabitants of the Musch plain.

16. The nomad Badikli tribe also oppress the inhabitants of the Musch plain.

Notwithstanding that the Armenians build the houses of these Kurds, plough their fields, reap their harvests, supply them with provisions and provide for their cattle, the Kurds kill the Armenians, outrage their women and virgins, desecrate their churches, insult their priests, burn their stacks, and seize their lands. Openly or secretly, the Kurds take their cattle, and besides seizing their furniture under some pretence or other, often fine them. The Kurds also exact from the Armenians a tax called "Hafin." Besides this the latter are bought and sold by the former.

Besides the above Kurds, there are 1,000 Mussulman families in the town of Musch, who are divided into the six tribes of Isali, Kotani, Topali, Teheshnikli, Ooryanli, and Tasholi. Each of these tribes have representatives in office, from the highest officials to the lowest zaptiehs, who oppress the people as much as the other Kurds. In Musch there also lives the famous Aledin Bey's equally famous son Mirza Bey, who with his son and brothers commit every imaginable kind of outrage and oppression.

As though the Armenians have not already suffered enough, a portion of the refugees from Batoum and Ardahan are being distributed amongst the Armenian houses, whose owners they also oppress.

As it would take volumes to contain the whole of the outrages committed by Kurds, Turks, officials, and soldiers on the Armenians, I will simply give your Excellency a few examples:—

1. A Mahommedan of Musch, Baghik's son Sado, put a puppy into the arms of Priest Kirkor, and forced him to ascend the altar of the church in the Proot quarter of the town.

2. Hallo and Suso, of the Hassanan tribe, severely thrashed an Armenian priest in the village of Karatcholian, in the district of Chynys, and so frightened him that he kept indoors for a month. The Kurds also tied a bundle of straw to the tail of a dog, set fire to it, and invited the Christians to see their prophet.

3. Fero, Iso, Solo, and Shabo, of the Jibran tribe, thinking the priest of the village of Shabedin, in the Caza of Chynys, was in the church, they broke in the door, took what they required, and destroyed the remaining furniture. They then put foul water into the font, and told the Armenians to put their cross into it.

4. The Kurds broke into the Monastery of Mijingert, at Chynys, exhumed a corpse that had been buried ten days and defiled it; they also tore the church pictures and smeared them with filth.

5. The famous Félémés, of the Hassanan tribe, opened the church in the village of Mamif, in the Chynys Caza, took what he required, and destroyed the remaining furniture, and after breaking the tombstones, threw filth into the church and cemetery.

6. At Dooman village, in the Chynys Caza, Habo, of the Seidan tribe, with some companions, plundered the church, after which they fastened a cord round the priest's neck and led him about the village.

7. The famous Mirza Bey and Salih, of the Musch Idareh Medjliss, with some companions, broke into the church at Karakiupru village, removed the valuables, and destroyed the rest of its contents. They then exhumed a newly-buried child and defiled it, after which they led the priest by a cord about the village, saying they would kill him like a dog.

8. Sheikh Kiamil, of the village of Abri, in the Caza of Boulanyk, with some companions, pillaged the church at Bournaz, in the Chynys Caza, and thinking the valuables were hidden, they pulled down the walls in places they suspected. They then led the priest about by a cord, lit fires on the roof of the church, and invited the Christians to pray, saying it was the Feast of Candlemas. They also attempted to throw the priest into the flames, which he only escaped by paying them 500 piastres. They squeezed the scrotum of an Armenian who was standing by, and who died of the torture. Finally, they entered the houses of Elo and Pado, tied them to a beam, and outraged their wives.

9. The fanatic Sheikh Murad, of the village of Chirt, in the Chynys Caza, with his brothers and other relations, entered the priest's house, introduced an iron ramrod into his arms, and then outraged his wife and daughters. These monsters also beat to death Tatarian Haroutoun.

Three Valis in succession have ordered Sheikh Murad's removal from the village, but he has always returned after a short absence to continue his acts as of old.

10. The barbarous Sheikh Kiamil, of Abri, in the Boulanyk Caza, killed Rehanian Haroutoun, of the village of Guvenduk, in the Chynys Caza. Haroutoun's only son, on hearing of his father's death, went to the spot, and, while bending over the corpse, was shot through the head by Kiamil, and he fell on his father's corpse. Haroutoun's brother was wounded, and died three days afterwards. In this village the Kaimakam's Armenian Vekil was also wounded, and now lies ill.

11. The church in the village of Arantchvank, in the Musch plain, and that of Odantchor, Boulanyk Caza, were defiled.

12. Our most precious emblem of Christianity, the cross, is daily cursed. To such an extent is this carried, that it is even done in writing over a signature. We are in possession of such a document (and will produce it if necessary) which was shown to the authorities, but no notice was taken of the matter.

13. During one year four married women were taken from the villages of Dzighak, Tiyucht, Doonik, and Garni, and five girls from the villages of Djabghis, Hosligeldi, Pyonk, Tell, and Arak, all of whom were forced to become Moslems.

14. From the beginning of the war to the present time fifty-four men have been killed. A week ago, at the village of Arzot, a poor Armenian, who was rather slow in bringing some manure, was cut down by Mirza Bey's son Moosa Bey. The man died two days later.

15. Last week Saratch Oglou Ibrahim, a member of the Moosh Idareh Medjliss, cursed the cross in the Medjliss in presence of an Armenian, who complained to the Bishop. The Council drew up a statement, and gave it to an Armenian messenger to bring it to Erzeroum to me. This messenger was murdered at Toharbokor, five hours this side of Moosh.

16. Mirza Bey, his cousin Suleiman Bey, and his son Moosa Bey, outraged the daughter and daughter-in-law of Meleonian Avedis, of Vartenis village, the daughter-in-law of Nersô, of Arnist village, and the wives of Kirkorian Sirko and Sharafian Hatcho, of the village of Avazaghpyur. In the village of Gars, Moosa Bey caused Manouk to be severely beaten, and during the night his wife was abducted, but was returned the following morning on Manouk's paying 20 liras. Moosa Bey caused Priest Gaspar's granddaughter to be carried off from Gars village to Kiokser, where she was kept for some days, outraged, and only restored to her relatives on their paying 20 liras.

17. Mirza Bey, his son, and other relations have outraged 17 women and girls in the village of Gars, 24 in Vartanis, 39 in Gensardonk, 2 in Arak, and 30 in Avazaghpyur.

All the above-mentioned murders, desecration and defilement of churches, outrages on women, &c., have occurred since the commencement of the late war. I have only mentioned a few of the villages in which women and girls have been violated. A volume only could contain the total number of such crimes committed by the Kurds on the Armenians.

The Armenians of Musch have frequently complained to the authorities of the misdeeds of the Kurds, and some of the latter have been exiled; but, of course, those who had money soon returned and oppressed the people more than ever. The complaints made by the Armenians worked against themselves.

To the outrages committed by the Kurds I may add the injustice and oppression of officials of every grade. A Christian can seldom obtain justice against a Moslem. The evidence of Christian witnesses against Moslems is not accepted by the Courts. Zaptiehs and their officers oppress the Armenians. To prove the unequal way in which justice is administered by the Government, I need only mention the following:—

Three or four hours from Musch are situated the villages of Shen and Semal, whose populations, on hearing of the approach of the Kurds, prepared to defend themselves. In the fight which ensued four Armenians and four Kurds were killed. On learning this the Government sent an inspector to inquire into the matter. This man said the lives of two of the Kurds were worth those of the four Armenians; he therefore took property from the Armenians, for his own use, worth 25,000 piastres, for the lives of the remaining two Kurds. Thus the Armenians, who defended themselves against the attack of the Kurds, had to pay for the lives of their assailants.

It is surprising that such officials, instead of being punished, are promoted. Mirza Bey, who was a Mudir, was made a Kaimakam with the rank of Kapouji Bashi. One of the oppressors of Chynys, Salih Agha, received the Fifth Class of the Medjidieh.

What can the unarmed Armenians do against the armed and Government-protected Kurds?

All they can do is, with a loud voice, to make known to the world that what they earn honourably, and by the sweat of their brow, is, together with their lives and honour, in this enlightened nineteenth century, at the mercy of the Government officials and of the Kurds, whose slaves the Armenians are forced to become. They are barely left clothing with which to cover their nakedness, and many have nothing with which to sustain life. They can only raise their voice, hoping that other nations whose lives, honour, and property are respected, and which they can peacefully and happily enjoy, will listen to them.

I, as Archbishop of Musch, beg to hand your Excellency this short statement (a copy of which has been handed to the Imperial Commissioners for Reforms) of some of the sufferings of the Armenians, begging you will communicate its contents to Her Majesty's Government, and that you will at the same time draw the particular attention of your Government to the state of Musch. I would also beg that, for the better information of Her Majesty's Government respecting the state of affairs in Musch, you would recommend the appointment of a Consular officer to that district.

Praying for your long life and happiness.

(Signed) KRIKORIS, *Archbishop of Musch.*

Erzeroum, July 28, 1879 (o. s.)

No. 119.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 30. Political.)

Erzeroum, August 21, 1879.

My Lord,

IN a letter recently received by me from Mar Shimoon, the Nestorian Patriarch, his Holiness begs that I will use my influence to arrange that a representative of the Nestorians be named and recognized by the authorities as attached to the Commission of Reforms for the Van Vilayet.

I have desired Captain Clayton, the Vice-Consul for Van, whom I had previously instructed, if possible, to pay a visit to the Nestorian country, to inform his Holiness personally that I have no doubt I shall be able to arrange that his very reasonable proposition be acceded to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major,*
Consul for Kurdistan.

No. 120.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 66.)

Buyukdéré, August 30, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of despatch No. 10, containing Mr. Michell's report of the Russians having handed over Ichtiman to the troops of the Principality of Bulgaria; and to state that, according to the boundary-line traced by the Commission of which I am member, in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin, the town of Ichtiman is about 5 English miles on the Roumelian side of the frontier which separates Bulgaria from Roumelia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 121.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 10.)

(Telegraphic.)

Serajevo, September 9, 1879, 4·20 P.M.

AUSTRIAN troops entered district of Novi-Bazar yesterday (8th) without opposition.

No. 122.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 10, 2 P.M.)

(No. 650. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, September 10, 1879, 10·30 A.M.

PORTE wishing to obtain from Ottoman Bank and other parties a small loan of about 130,000*l.* sterling, guaranteed in part by the tribute of Bulgaria, in order to disband some of its troops, Russian Ambassador has protested against it on the ground that Porte cannot dispose of any new source of revenue for raising loans whilst Russian indemnity remains unpaid.

No. 123.

Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 10, 3·45 P.M.)

(No. 80 ?.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, September 10, 1879, 12·40 P.M.

AS the British and Russian Governments have been unable to come to an understanding as to position of point west of Karaourgan, I beg to submit, for your Lordship's consideration, that I should bring about a meeting of the Commission in order to see what modifications have taken place in the opinions of respective Commissioners in interval since last meeting, otherwise present situation may last indefinitely.

No. 124.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 10, 4 P.M.)

(No. 651.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, September 10, 1879, 2·5 P.M.

COLONEL MILES telegraphs, Bagdad, 8th:—

"Following received from Mosul:—

"'Reported serious fighting between troops and Kurds neighbourhood Amadia. Kurds suffered heavy losses. Troops destroyed Kurds' villages.'"

No. 125.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Sale.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, September 10, 1879, 4·30 P.M.

I APPROVE your proposal to return by way of Constantinople.

No. 126.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 10, 4·45 P.M.)

(No. 652.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, September 10, 1879, 4 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 16 to Colonel Clarke, Safvet Pasha says that he is quite ready to submit question of the frontier in dispute with Russia to arbitration, but he wishes to know whom you would suggest as arbitrators.

No. 127.

M. Bartholomei to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 10.)

M. le Marquis,

Londres, le 10 *Septembre*, 1879.

JE viens de recevoir de M. de Giers, de Livadia, un télégramme qui porte que d'après les réponses déjà reçues, le Cabinet Impérial aurait lieu de croire que sauf le Gouvernement Britannique, toutes les Puissances sont prêtes à accepter la proposition

Russe par rapport à la fixation du point de la frontière près de Silistrie. En présence de cet assentiment, le Cabinet Impérial aime à espérer que le Cabinet de Londres n'élèvera pas de difficultés pour se rallier à la décision des autres Puissances; de son côté, le Gouvernement Impérial est prêt à adopter le principe demandé de la majorité des Cabinets pour la solution de cette question.

En m'acquittant de cette communication auprès de votre Excellence, je crois devoir ajouter, pour plus de clarté, qu'elle est destinée à servir de complément à la démande précédente que j'ai faite auprès de vous et sur laquelle vous m'aviez donné une réponse plutôt dilatoire par l'entremise de Sir Julian Pauncefote. Permettez-moi d'espérer que sur cette nouvelle proposition de mon Gouvernement j'obtiendrai l'assentiment que l'on vient demander au Gouvernement Britannique.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) M. BARTHOLOMEI.

No. 128.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1152.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1879.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 762 of the 25th ultimo, reporting your conversation with Safvet Pasha on the subject of the Règlements to be introduced in the European provinces of Turkey in accordance with the provisions of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

Her Majesty's Government have received with much satisfaction the assurances given to you by Safvet Pasha. They trust that the engagements contracted by the Sultan in this respect will be fulfilled without further delay, and they entirely approve the language employed by your Excellency on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 129.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 55.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1879.

IN reply to your despatch No. 188 of the 23rd ultimo, I have to inform you that I approve the representations made by you to Aleko Pasha with regard to the manner in which Turkish refugees are searched for arms on their arrival at the railway-stations in Eastern Roumelia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 130.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 94.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting a conversation with the Grand Vizier, in which the latter offered the acknowledgments of the Turkish Government for the efforts made by you to secure equitable and considerate treatment for the Mussulman population resident in Servia.*

You are aware that your exertions to attain this result have met with the full approval of Her Majesty's Government, and I need, therefore, only express the satisfaction with which I have learned that they have also been duly appreciated by your Turkish colleague and by the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 23.

No. 131.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 95.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1879.

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 242 and 243, the latter marked Secret and Confidential, of the 14th ultimo.

Under the circumstances reported in the latter despatch, I approve the advice given by you to your Turkish colleague to address a formal note to the Servian Government demanding that permission should be given to the Albanian refugees to return to their homes in the districts recently ceded to the Principality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 132.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 593.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1879.

I HAVE to request you to communicate to the Austro-Hungarian Government the correspondence with the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, of which copy is inclosed, respecting a proposal made by the Russian Government that the Montenegrin Commission should trace on the map a provisional line of frontier, and submit it to the decision of the Cabinets.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 133.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(No. 51.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1879.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 60 of the 22nd ultimo, reporting the proceedings of the party sent under Major Ardagh to complete the survey of the portion of frontier omitted from the Russian map.

I have noticed with pleasure the mention made by you of Captain Everett's services in this matter, and I shall be obliged if you will offer to him my thanks for the assistance he has rendered.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 134.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 769.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 26, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 743 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli on the subject of the maltreatment of Turkish villagers by Bulgarian functionaries and police.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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* M. Barthélemi, September 8; to M. Barthélemi, September 9.

Inclosure in No. 134.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopoli, August 23, 1879.

Sir,

HAVING received your Excellency's despatch of the 16th instant, I submitted to the Governor-General this morning, in the form of memoranda, the contents of Mr. Consul Brophy's despatches of the 12th and 13th August, which I have the honour to return herewith.

His Excellency animadverted, as usual, on the unsatisfactory condition of the militia and gendarmerie of this province, which rendered him helpless in such matters as I had brought to his notice; but, as I communicated to him at the same time a telegram from Mr. Consul Brophy, reporting the complicity of the Bulgarian functionaries and police in a system of tyranny and extortion towards Turkish villagers in the Prefecture of Bourgas, the Governor-General promised to appoint at once a mixed Commission of Bulgarians and Turks to inquire into the circumstances reported by Mr. Brophy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 135.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 771.)

Therapia, August 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE twice had the pleasure of seeing M. Radonitz, the Montenegrin Minister, since his arrival at Constantinople. On both occasions he requested me to use my good offices, and to exert my influence, to obtain from the Porte the speedy settlement of the questions connected with the delimitation of the new Montenegrin frontier, which threaten to bring about a serious misunderstanding between Turkey and Montenegro. He said that the Prince, on his part, had loyally and faithfully executed the Treaty of Berlin. He had withdrawn his troops from Turkish territory, of which they were in occupation, and which they might have retained until the Porte had performed its share of the Treaty. If His Highness had done so he would have held a material guarantee for the cession of the territory which the Congress had assigned to him. It was especially important that Gussinjé-Plava should be given up without delay, otherwise collisions might take place between the inhabitants of those districts and the Montenegrin troops, which could not but lead to deplorable results.

M. Radonitz said that he had seen the letter addressed by the Albanian Chiefs of those districts, and of Ypek, Dibré, Prisrend, and other places, to the International Commission, and referred to by Mr. Kirby Green in his telegram to your Lordship of the 25th instant, but that he attached little or no importance to it, although he had considered it his duty to call the attention of Safvet Pasha to it. He believes that it was merely written in the hopes of alarming the Commission, and of inducing it to suspend its work. He was convinced that the power and influence of the so-called Albanian League were much exaggerated, and that if the Porte chose to exercise its authority in earnest, the Albanians would at once obey its orders and give over Gussinjé-Plava to Montenegro.

M. Radonitz added that the Prince of Montenegro was aware that it was mainly through the exertions of the British Embassy that the question of Podgoritza was brought to a satisfactory settlement, and that His Highness was grateful to me for what I had done in that matter. He hoped that I would render a similar service to Montenegro in obtaining from the Porte the cession, without further delay, of the other districts to which the Principality had a right under the Treaty of Berlin.

I told M. Radonitz that I had been constantly pressing the Porte to come to an amicable arrangement with Montenegro on the question of the delimitation of the new frontiers, and that I should continue to do so, as I believed that it was in the interest of Turkey, as well as of the Principality, that questions of disputed territory, which must necessarily endanger the good relations that ought to subsist between the two countries, should not be allowed to remain unsettled. I asked him whether the

Prince was still disposed to entertain the proposal that was, I understood, made to him some time ago for the exchange of Gussinjé-Plava with Kutchi-Kranic, or some other district inhabited by Montenegrins. It might, I said, be desirable that a considerable Albanian Mussulman population, such as that stated to inhabit Gussinjé-Plava, should not be incorporated with Montenegro.

M. Radonitz replied that, although the inhabitants of Gussinjé-Plava were for the most part Mahommedans, they were not Albanians, but the descendants of Servians or Montenegrins, who had embraced Islamism. He believed, consequently, that they would be easily reconciled to union with Montenegro, and that there would be no difficulty whatever in governing them.

As regards the exchange to which I had alluded, the matter had been submitted to the Prince, but he had determined not to entertain the proposal. In the first place, the district of Kutchi-Kranic was far inferior in extent to that of Gussinjé-Plava; and, secondly, His Highness was determined to adhere strictly in all respects to the Treaty of Berlin, which he looked upon as a law that he was bound to obey.

I have called Safvet Pasha's attention to the letter addressed by the Albanian Chiefs to the Commission, and have urged upon him the importance of taking steps to make the Albanians understand that the Porte is resolved that the Treaty of Berlin shall be executed, and that it is prepared to compel them to deliver over to Montenegro the territory assigned to the Principality.

The Sultan has not yet been able to receive the Montenegrin Minister on account of a slight indisposition, from which His Majesty has been suffering for the last few days, and which has rendered it necessary that M. Radonitz's audience should be postponed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 136.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 772. Secret.)

Therapia, August 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE read with much interest Lord Lyons' report of a conversation with M. Waddington, recorded in his despatch to your Lordship No. 837, Very Confidential, of the 6th instant.

I think it my duty to observe, with reference to it, that M. Fournier, principally I believe from pique because the Sultan has not shown him that attention since his return from France that he considers himself entitled to, has shown marked personal hostility to His Majesty, and has expressed himself almost publicly with regard to His Majesty in terms which, in my opinion, are scarcely consistent with his position as the Representative of a friendly Power, or indeed that of any diplomatic functionary. As it might be expected, the Sultan has not been left in ignorance of M. Fournier's language with regard to him. His Majesty has spoken to me with respect to it, and has asked me whether I knew the reason of it. I evaded answering His Majesty's question by expressing a hope that it had been greatly exaggerated, or misrepresented. My French colleague has not hesitated to state to Turks of influence and position that, in his opinion, the Sultan should be deposed. This having been reported to His Majesty, he sent Munir Bey to the French Embassy to ask for an explanation on the subject.

M. Fournier, on another occasion, expressed himself very unguardedly with regard to the Sultan to M. Zarifi, the well-known Greek banker, who has the privilege of speaking very freely to His Majesty, and who was sufficiently imprudent to repeat to him what the French Ambassador had said. All these circumstances have naturally produced a very unfavourable impression upon His Majesty, and have, no doubt, caused some irritation against M. Fournier.

The truth is that the Sultan has not forgiven M. Fournier the disappointment and humiliation His Majesty considers that he was subjected to by the breakdown of the De Tocqueville scheme, which was almost forced upon him by the French Ambassador. Consequently, since M. Fournier's return from France he has not met with the same personal attention from His Majesty that he was accustomed to receive before his departure. He is not in the habit of concealing his anger when his susceptibilities

are wounded, and in this case his personal vanity, as well as his national jealousy, are concerned.

At a meeting of the Heads of Missions held the day before yesterday at this Embassy to discuss the licence law, M. Fournier delivered himself of a diatribe against the Turkish Government, which excited the wonder of all his colleagues, whilst it no doubt secretly gratified at least one of them. When Count Corti, pleading in favour of accepting the law, on account of the urgent financial embarrassments of the Porte, said that the Turks "must live," "I do not see the necessity," exclaimed our impetuous colleague, "let them die." Of course these words were known all over the place very shortly after the meeting broke up. On the following morning M. Fournier, notwithstanding the decision of the meeting, and the calmer view it took of the question, denounced the proposed law to Safvet Pasha, and declared his intention of never accepting it. This seriously alarmed his Highness; he was only reassured when Count Zichy, as our doyen, subsequently communicated to him the resolution come to by us.

The manner of conducting affairs on the part of M. Fournier is very much to be regretted on many accounts. It is calculated to cause misunderstandings between his Government and the Porte, which it is most desirable to avoid; it weakens his legitimate influence with the Turkish Government, and it renders cordial action with him on my part, for which I am so truly anxious, exceedingly difficult. My colleague has sometimes read to me his despatches and telegrams to M. Waddington, and I am bound to say that the exaggeration and passion of their language are such as to mislead his Government and to cause an impression and feeling with regard to the Porte which the circumstances of the case do not always justify.

I cannot, I am free to confess, agree in the opinion expressed by M. Waddington to Lord Lyons, that it would be extremely impolitic for England and France either to facilitate a loan to Turkey or in any way to afford pecuniary help to the Porte, while the Government at Constantinople was in its present situation. I have little doubt that this opinion is founded upon M. Fournier's reports. This is a matter which deserves the most serious consideration on the part of Her Majesty's Government. As far as British interests are concerned, the present Government is certainly not worse than its predecessor. It is probably better. I have more confidence in this respect in Safvet Pasha than I had in the late Grand Vizier. It is greatly to be feared that, unless the Porte does get a loan, and that very speedily, the consequences may be most serious, and the "coup de théâtre," of which M. Fournier has warned M. Waddington, may take place. The utter penury of the Turkish Government is gradually making itself felt more and more in the capital and in the provinces. Discontent is rapidly gaining ground amongst all the populations of the Empire; the army, without pay, and almost without food, is disaffected; the police, also without pay and food, is no longer sufficient to maintain public order and security; and the general want and misery may lead any day to formidable outbreaks. The question may, therefore, be soon reduced to this—is the Empire to live, or is it, as M. Fournier appears to desire, to die?

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 137.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 773.) *Therapia, August 29, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose extracts from a despatch addressed to me by Vice-Consul Gatheral, inclosing a valuable and interesting Report upon the collection and sale of tithes in his district, which I shall endeavour to have translated into French for communication to the Porte. Mr. Gatheral has had so much experience of Asiatic Turkey that he writes with authority on this subject. The evils arising from the present tithe system, which he exposes so forcibly, should occupy the most serious attention of the Turkish Government, and I shall, when giving Mr. Gatheral's Report to Safvet Pasha, earnestly recommend it to his consideration.

I should be glad to be informed of the decision arrived at by Her Majesty's Government with reference to the collection of tithes in Cyprus: whether the system is to be retained, and, if so, with what modifications; or whether it is to be abolished, and, if so, the nature of the tax to be substituted for it. I am frequently asked this question, and the Sultan himself has spoken to me on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 137.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Angora, August 23, 1879.*

I BEG to forward to your Excellency inclosed a special Report on the "Collection and sale of tithes," now proceeding in this department and province.

The zaptieh force, officers and men, is at issue with the Civil Government, and refuses to carry out its orders, the difficulty being the usual one of unpaid salaries for a period of six to eight months. Robbery with violence and even murders take place close to the town in consequence, but these outrages are surprisingly few, the reason being that people who travel do so in groups, and fully armed for mutual protection. The recent law reforms elaborated by Said Pasha, Minister of Justice, have been introduced here. These consist of an Inspector ("Movfetish"), recently arrived from Constantinople, who is expected to perambulate the whole province and visit all the Courts. Four Public Prosecutors, one for each department into which the province is divided, and one Procureur-Général for the whole province. A President-General for the Civil and Criminal Courts. Of these seven new officials, three are to be paid from £ T. 50 to £ T. 100 per month, with £ T. 300 per annum for travelling expenses; the others £ T. 20 per month, with £ T. 10 per month for travelling expenses.

The new laws these officials are called upon to administer I have read over carefully, but I fail to see that they touch any of the evils from which the province suffers; they strike me as being translated literally from some European Code, and one quite unsuited to the habits and peculiarities of the people, and will no doubt rapidly become obsolete, as many such so-called "reforms" have become, the only result being the additional officials and their heavy expenditure adding fresh burdens to those crushing ones this unfortunate people already carry with so little complaint.

Commerce, I regret to add, continues very depressed. Mohair that was worth 3*s.* 9*d.* per lb. in 1877, and 2*s.* 6*d.* in 1878, is now worth only 1*s.* 8*d.*, and slow of sale at that, and all the other special products of the provinces are in the same depressed condition. This depression, combined with Government pressure for old and new taxes, and the augmenting prices of wheat, &c., produce a feverish restlessness and misery amongst the populace greater than what was observable during the war, and which, I fear, will have same results in disorder and rioting.

The child convict, Nicola Nookail, still remains at my house. The only order received from the Porte has been an unsigned telegram directing the authorities to leave him with me for the present, but there is always the risk of this being disregarded, so that I would beg most respectfully to be favoured with any further directions your Excellency may have to give me on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GATHERAL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 137.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Angora, August 23, 1879.*

I BEG to call your Excellency's attention to the following details regarding the collection and sales of tithes for the Department and Province of Angora:—

It must be premised that reaping begins in this province from the 1st to the 15th July, and the produce from which the tithe is collected is as under:—

Grain, wheat, barley, oats, vetch, sesame-seed and rice, cotton, flax, linseed, and lentils.

Opium, yellow berries, and gum tragacanth.

Until the last five years this impost was levied on vegetables and fruit also, but at that time it was commuted for a money tax, the amount of which is fixed year by year, according to the average yield.

The Administrative Council of the province is held responsible by the Treasury in Constantinople for the valuation and realization of this important branch of the provincial revenue.

That Council takes proceedings with regard to the tithes as early as the 1st May in each year, at which date it instructs the Mutessarifs, Kaimakams, and Mudirs to appoint and send out revenue officers to make a round of the whole province, and report on the probable prospects of the grain crops.

As soon as this inquiry is completed, usually about the 1st June, an estimate is made of the probable quantity and value of the tithe, with regard to which the Treasury is advised, and the Local Government then decides whether it will be most advantageous for the collection to take place in kind or sold to the highest bidder.

For two years past these tithes have been sold, as the proceeds have always been mortgaged to Galata bankers, some months previous to these proceeds being available. When the tithe is retained by Government, procedure is as follows:—A chief officer is appointed for each of the four departments into which the province is divided. Under these a whole army of temporary employés are engaged, for terms varying from two to six months, it being found necessary to have an employé in each village; and as the province contains 2,469 villages, the unmanageable nature of the collection, when undertaken in this way, may be inferred without further description. These employés are paid merely nominal salaries, 3 liras (2*l.* 14*s.*) per month being the average, and out of this pittance they are expected to defray expenses. In effect, they live at free quarters on the poor villagers, and realize considerable indirect gains besides; so that these posts are eagerly competed for, both by Moslems and Christians.

These employés take note of the quantity of grain collected on the threshing-floor; they are instructed to measure the grain when free from chaff, putting aside one measure in ten for the Government; but they rarely, if ever, do so, preferring instead to arrange with the villagers, and make a rough guess or estimate of the total; and it is in this way that their indirect gains are increased, it being the villagers' interest to induce them to estimate the total as low as possible.

The grain being all winnowed and the amount of tithe ascertained, that tithe is conveyed on mule or camel back, or in country bullock carts, to the nearest Government granary; this is done by means of the forced labour of the villagers. The law provides that the villagers should only convey it one hour's distance, and that for any distance exceeding this they should be paid the market rate for carriage; but as a matter of fact they are compelled to convey it distances often of six or eight hours, and receive nothing.

The contents of these Government granaries are either sold on the public market, the proceeds being remitted to Constantinople, or else forwarded by means of requisitioned carriage to the nearest ports, for the use of the army in Europe, as was done during the war of 1877.

When the tithes are disposed of by auction to the highest bidder the mode of procedure is as follows:—

The local authorities are authorized, in the first instance, to offer each village to the villagers themselves, the upset price being usually an advance of 10 per cent. on the price realized the previous year. No two villages can be disposed of to one buyer, but this excellent rule is systematically evaded. If sold locally in this way, the Provincial Government is advised, the money remitted, and the transaction closed.

If, as usually happens, the villagers are unable or unwilling to purchase themselves, the sale is then transferred to the city.

The auction takes place in the Government buildings, and for at least two months collects there an excited and noisy crowd, the result being that, while the sale is in progress, it is almost impossible to secure the ear and attention of any official to any business whatever.

For the purposes of sale the villages are, in the first instance, grouped into "cazas" or districts, each district containing 80 to 100 villages. When buyers decline to offer for them in this way, then the sale proceeds by departments, and the number of villages in each being as follows:—

Angora	1,022
Yozgat	898
Krisheir	369
Kighseri	180
Total	2,469

the latter is generally the form in which the tithe of this province is disposed of,

as native capitalists combine to form companies, on the principle of dividing the profit or loss as may happen.

The law enacts that all tithes should be disposed of before the 15th August; but this regulation is also evaded, and the sale is kept dragging on for a month or six weeks more, during which time the highest offers for the various districts or departments are announced several times every day to the crowd at the Government building, and also carried round the various bazaars by the town crier, every one who makes a bid affixing the amount and his signature to the form provided for the purpose, as also the name of one guarantee.

At last the Administrative Council decides that the lists must be closed, after which they are affixed to a notice board for eleven days more, but no offer for less than ½ per cent. additional is accepted, if there are no higher bids; the district or department is then allotted, the buyer giving a bond for the amount, payable in six monthly instalments, these instalments when overdue carrying interest at 1 per cent. per month.

Last year the Angora tithe was sold by departments, and, owing to the want of rain in spring, and a sudden rise in the price of grain, the tithe-farmers realized a profit of at least 25 per cent.; this has stimulated competition this year, and, besides, the neighbouring Provinces of Broussa and Konieh have been devastated by locusts, and grain in large quantities is already being bought and forwarded to those districts where the harvest has failed.

The Angora harvest is only an average one, but the active local demand has given the smaller capitalists courage, and they are outbidding the prices offered by the wealthy combinations referred to.

The Angora district, which last year only realized 21,500*l.*, has this year brought 43,800*l.*, and the whole province, instead of 60,000*l.* will, it is believed, realize not less than 110,000*l.*

This, however, will be no advantage to the central Treasury, as the tithe for 1878 was mortgaged a year and a-half ago to Galata bankers against an advance of 80,000*l.* This not being realized, these bankers hold a lien on the new tithe, which, with interest added, amounts to a considerable sum, and the surplus was hypothecated to a Greek banker for a further advance of 60,000*l.* some months ago.

It will thus be seen that the Imperial Exchequer gains little advantage from this source of revenue, whilst the province itself gains nothing whatever; the peasantry complain bitterly of this impost, and the way it is collected, whether that collection is undertaken by Government or by the publicans, whose profession it is; this class, which is a large and wealthy one as a rule, increase their gains from year to year, and denounce vigorously any suggestion of reform as an interference with their vested rights and time-honoured privileges.

The poor peasant has just cause of complaint.

The harvest this year was an early one, reaping beginning in June, and as the grain is trodden by oxen, and thrown up against the wind to separate it from the chaff, in the same way as has prevailed in the unchanging East for at least 5,000 years, all these operations are necessarily carried on in the open air and in exposed localities. The tithe-farmer does not make his rounds for two, sometimes three, months after the grain is collected, and yet the owner is prohibited, under the severest penalties of fine and imprisonment, to touch a grain, or even to place it under the shelter of a shed, until the official has made his rounds and collected his proportions.

During all this time the grain is consumed freely by bird and beast, is often damaged by autumn rain, or entirely blown away by some sudden tempest, so that the farmers allege, and apparently with truth, that instead of a tenth the impost really amounts to a fourth.

Another and still greater evil is the demoralizing effect on public officials. It is, of course, illegal for them to have any share whatever in the buying or selling of tithe, but few of them are able to resist the temptation of speculating in it, and the results are jobbery, under-valuation, falsification of official returns, and unfair, because indirect, pressure on the people, so as to increase their unlawful gains.

I find, on inquiry, that all classes belonging to every creed would welcome with satisfaction the commutation of the tithe into a money tax.

It is suggested by those most familiar with the province that the "emlak" or house and land tax would form a good basis for valuing and collecting such a commutation. This tax is one of the most satisfactory, realizing as it does a large sum in ready money, and with very little expense in collection. Each field and house is estimated at a certain money value, on which 4 per 1,000 is levied.

The suggestion is to increase this rate to 8 per 1,000, or even 1 per cent., which would, it is alleged, realize a larger and more invariable amount to Government at less than half the expense of the present mode of tithe-farming. The produce of his fields would then belong to the farmer who tills them, and he could either garner his harvest or dispose of it in the open as he found most convenient or profitable. The only opponents of this reform would be the publican class already referred to, and the Ulema or Moslem priesthood, who maintain that the injunction of the Koran is to collect a tithe of the produce of the earth, and to collect that tithe in kind, and with the ignorant obstinacy of the class, they resist any modification of the old ways, however obsolete or impracticable, as an act of impiety or sacrilege.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 138.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 774.) *Therapia, August* 30, 1879.

My Lord,

M. NARSES, the Armenian Pro-Patriarch of Constantinople, some time ago resigned his office, against my earnest advice, on the ground that the Porte were not taking the necessary measures to secure justice and protection to the Armenian population of Asiatic Turkey. In my opinion, this step was not in the true interest of the Armenians. His Beatitude has now been induced to withdraw his resignation, which had not been accepted by the Porte. He has explained, for my information, his reasons for so doing to M. Preziosi, who has given me the inclosed memorandum of the communication made to him on the subject by his Beatitude.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 138.

Memorandum by M. Preziosi.

M. NARSES m'a assuré qu'il a été malgré lui forcé de retirer sa démission. Lors de la nomination d'Aarifi Pacha, quelques Notables de la communauté Arménienne sont allés le prier d'aller avec eux faire visite au Premier Ministre, et il a dû se rendre à leurs instances. Pendant l'entrevue, Aarifi Pacha l'a fortement engagé à retirer sa démission en lui faisant les plus belles promesses, lui donnant des assurances formelles qu'avant peu les réformes désirées seraient introduites en Arménie, et qu'une loi Organique analogue à celle de la Roumélie Orientale y serait appliquée. Le Patriarche ne s'est pas laissé séduire par les belles paroles du Premier Ministre et a demandé à réfléchir. Sur ces entrefaites la communauté Arménienne ayant renvoyé le Vicaire qui gérait le Patriarcat, M. Narses a dû aller présider une Assemblée Générale de la nation et là toute l'assistance, y compris le clergé présent, l'a supplié à l'unanimité de reprendre ses fonctions, vu l'anomalie qui existait dans les affaires de la communauté. Devant son hésitation, il a été pris de force et installé sur le trône Patriarcal. M. Narses est allé informer Aarifi Pacha qu'il avait retiré sa démission. Le Premier Ministre à cette occasion lui a renouvelé les assurances qu'il lui avait données précédemment, et Safvet Pacha, qu'il a vu dans la suite, lui a tenu le même langage. M. Narses connaissant de longue date le cas qu'on doit faire des promesses et des engagements des Turcs, prie son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de vouloir bien veiller à leur exécution.

Le Patriarche a appris qu'un certain Carabet Effendi Coussarian est désigné pour remplacer Nourian Effendi dans la Commission de Marash. M. Narses prie par conséquent son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de mander ce fonctionnaire auprès de lui, et de lui donner des conseils sur la ligne de conduite qu'il devra suivre dans l'exercice de ses fonctions futures.

(Signé) ROBERT PREZIOSI.

Thérapia, le 29 *Août*, 1879.

No. 139.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 775.) *Therapia, August* 30, 1879.

My Lord,

AT a meeting of the Diplomatic Body held at Her Majesty's Embassy on Wednesday last, it was agreed that the chief Dragomans of all the foreign Missions should wait upon the Prime Minister to-day to make the strongest collective representations to his Highness on the subject of the murders and robberies that have recently been committed in the capital and its suburbs, and in the villages on the shores of the Bosphorus, and to insist that effective measures should be taken at once for the protection of the lives and property of foreigners.

Aarifi Pasha expressed his deep regret that this step on our parts had been rendered necessary, and immediately sent for the "Préfet" of Constantinople and the Minister of Police, to whom he gave the most stringent and categorical orders to adopt every possible means for the protection of life and property.

I informed Aarifi and Safvet Pashas, privately, that at the meeting of the Heads of Missions more than one of the Ambassadors present had expressed an opinion that it might be expedient to request their Governments to send additional vessels of war to Constantinople in order to afford that protection to their subjects which the Porte appeared unable to give, and I warned them of the grave consequences that might ensue if the Governments in question were to take this step. They expressed their earnest hope that such would not be the case.

I beg to inclose two letters from English residents at Kadikoui, and a Report from the Minister of Police referring to this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 139.

Rapport adressé par le Ministère de la Police au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.

(Traduction.)

A LA suite du meurtre commis dernièrement dans le jardin de M. Tubini, à Moda, l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique avait officieusement représenté au Ministère de la Police la panique que s'était emparée des familles Anglaises habitant cette localité, et avait demandé l'adoption de mesures propres à ramener la tranquillité dans les esprits.

Il a été, par conséquent, décidé qu'outre les gendarmes, des troupes régulières seraient installées dans la plaine de Moda en vue de surveiller tant le rivage que les autres abords de ce faubourg, pour le mettre ainsi à l'abri d'un nouveau coup de main.

Or, il paraît que les personnes les plus directement intéressées, c'est-à-dire les familles habitant Moda, se sont opposées à cette mesure, sous le futil prétexte qu'elle les priverait du plaisir de jouer au cricket dans cette plaine.

D'autre part, les Agents et Commissaires de Police chargés de procéder sur les lieux à une enquête sur le crime en question rencontrent de la part des habitants de Moda un mauvais vouloir significatif d'éclairer la justice et de lui fournir les renseignements et les indications dont elle pout avoir besoin. Cette attitude, qui paralyse les efforts de la police et contre-carre ainsi les mesures salutaires adoptés en faveur de la population, paraît tout au moins inexplicable, et il serait désirable qu'elle soit éclaircie et expliquée.

Inclosure 2 in No. 139.

Messrs. Whittall and Marshall to Sir A. H. Layard.

Kadikoui, August 29, 1879.

Sir,

WE, the undersigned delegates representing the British residents of Moda, Kadikoui, respectfully call your Excellency's attention to the following statements:—

The village of Kadikeui, in which we live, has been for some two years past the constant scene of robberies and other crimes. In our quarter, about half the houses have either been broken into or attempts have been made with that object in view. Within the past fortnight the terrible murders which have already been brought under your Excellency's notice have been perpetrated in our midst; and since these murders, notwithstanding the extraordinary measures taken by the Turkish police, who sent a squad of about thirty soldiers to occupy Moda Point, further attempts to break into houses, and in one case to assassinate, have been made in our neighbourhood. We cannot but look with alarm on this increasing insecurity, all the more so, as the robbers and assassins, gaining confidence from the impunity which they enjoy, resort to their firearms whenever they find their attempts frustrated, and so make the duties of "bekgis," or private guards, we employ more onerous and risky. We need not inform your Excellency that, under these circumstances, we are living, as it were, under arms, and in constant apprehension of attacks on our lives and properties.

We have consequently decided, in full union with the French, German, Austrian, Italian, Belgian, and Hellenic residents in our quarter, who have all addressed similar petitions to their respective Ambassadors, to place our position before your Excellency, and to respectfully request that the consent of the Sublime Porte should be officially obtained for several of our members, whom we shall name when required, to concert measures with the local police of Kadikeui for our proper protection in future. The local police at present cannot act with us, but we believe we could, if duly authorized, arrange matters with them satisfactorily, and acting unitedly with them carry out the necessary measures. We did think of applying for permission to choose and pay a police of our own, but for various weighty reasons we found that the responsibility would be too great. We then have to fall back on the only other plan, which is to make a proper arrangement with the present police, but increased in numbers.

Trusting that your Excellency will take the necessary steps for the obtention of the above authorization, we are, &c.

(Signed) J. W. WHITTALL.
G. B. MARSHALL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 139.

Mr. Marshall and others to Acting Consul-General Wrench.

Kadikeui, August 29, 1879.

Sir,

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th instant, addressed to Mr. J. W. Whittall, and of its two inclosures, one being a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador, and one that of a report from the Minister of Police.

In reply to Her Majesty's Ambassador's demand for explanations, we beg to state that the officer commanding the Kadikeui police, when he brought the troops to Moda, requesting permission from several of us to pitch their tents in M. Tubiné's field, the scene of the murders, we told him that we had no objection to his doing so, but that, as M. Tubiné was the owner of the field, it was but right to apply to him for authorization.

He (the Chief of the Police) then said that there was no time just then to apply for such permission, as it was late, and that it would be all the same if the tents were pitched about a hundred yards off on Moda Point, adjoining the field.

We replied he could do as he liked, and it was agreed that he should send the soldiers to patrol the fields as often as he deemed necessary, and with that object in view a portion of the railings which separated the field from Moda Point was removed.

As a matter of fact, we can state that the real occupants of the field by night and by day since then have been the soldiers, and there is no one belonging to us in occupation of the field. As for the soldiers disturbing our cricket, or, rather, our lawn tennis, the field is so large that not 30, but 500 soldiers could encamp in it without disturbing us.

As regards the "mauvais vouloir signifiantif d'éclairer la justice et de lui fournir les renseignements et les indications dont elle pût avoir besoin, cette attitude qui paralyse ainsi les efforts de la police," &c., we do not hesitate to qualify these statements as wilful and disgraceful falsehoods.

Not only have we not directly or indirectly impeded investigation, but, at the cost of time, trouble, and money, we have gone out of our way to urge the police on by volunteering all possible information. We have been at the police-office constantly suggesting that such and such witnesses should be called; we have ourselves taken reluctant witnesses to the police to give evidence; and, in fact, at the very moment when your communication was received, the Chief of the Kadikeui Police, and his second in command, were at Mr. Whittall's house, questioning certain witnesses whom he brought to their notice, and he had just arranged, at some inconvenience to himself, that the said witnesses should go on the following day, accompanied by detectives, to find certain refugees formerly in the murdered family's employ.

In fact, Sir, we assert most positively that we not only did what, humanly speaking, we could do to assist the police, but we even went beyond our province and offered to pay, and actually did pay, money to detectives to enable them to act with greater promptitude. We further offered to give a reward of several hundred pounds for the apprehension and conviction of the assassins, an offer which was refused by the Turkish authorities.

Such being the case, we cannot rest under the base and false insinuations conveyed in Hafiz Pasha's report, and we beg that Her Majesty's Ambassador should demand their retractation and a full apology.

We have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. B. MARSHALL.
(And 16 other signatures of British merchants.)

No. 140.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 778.)

Therapia, August 31, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE received a memorial from the inhabitants of Zagori, a district to the north-east of Janina, requesting my support in obtaining its annexation to Greece. They contend that, unless this annexation is effected, there will be no well-defined and defensible frontier between Greece and Albania. If, they declare, only a part of the district be ceded to Greece, the inhabitants of the remainder will desert their villages, and emigrate to that country or to other parts of Europe. They state that the entire population of Zagori, amounting to 32,000 souls, is Hellenic, and professes the Greek faith.

I visited this district many years ago, and made a Report upon it to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. I was much struck by its prosperity, by the culture of its inhabitants, and the advance that it had made in civilization. Every village had its school, and the memorialists state that scarcely 10 per cent. of the population are now unable to read and write. At that time Zagori possessed exceptional privileges. No Turk or Mussulman was allowed to settle in the district, which enjoyed a kind of autonomous Administration.

It is not probable that the Porte will consent to the annexation of Zagori to Greece, or that the Powers will demand it; but Her Majesty's Government would, probably, not be indisposed to authorize me to endeavour to obtain from the Turkish Government some guarantee or assurance that the privileges and rights hitherto enjoyed by this interesting community should be secured to them.

Copies of the memorial of the inhabitants of Zagori have, I believe, been presented to all the Representatives of the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 140.

Memorandum des Habitants de Zagori aux Ambassadeurs des Puissances Européennes à Constantinople.

A son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur de la Grande Bretagne à Constantinople.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LE Congrès de Berlin a prescrit dans le treizième Protocole de sa séance du 5 Juillet, 1878, que les golfes de Volos et d'Arta seraient cédés à la Grèce avec les territoires adjacents. On entend évidemment par territoires adjacents les contrées qui font avec les autres pays le commerce par ces golfes. Et c'est dans ce sens que le Congrès considéra comme territoires adjacents la Vallée de Salamvrias (Pénéus) en Thessalie sur le versant de la mer Egée et celle du Kalamas (Thyamis) en Epire du côté de la Mer Ionienne (voir Protocole 13 du Congrès de Berlin).

Ainsi, d'après la décision du Congrès, la nouvelle ligne de démarcation entre la Grèce et la Turquie commence au sommet du Pinde, appelé par les anciens Lacmos et aujourd'hui Katara, seul point par où l'on puisse communiquer entre l'Epire et la Thessalie. Aucune autre voie de communication que celle de Zygos passant tout près du Lacmos ne peut exister entre les deux pays, des obstacles naturels, presque insurmontables, tels que la haute chaîne du Pinde, s'opposant à l'ouverture de toute voie de communication.

La ligne indiquée plus haut se dirige vers l'orient en Thessalie et vers l'occident en Epire, passe par les sommets des hautes montagnes, qui bornent au nord les vallées du Salamvrias et du Kalamas. Cette ligne forme en quelque sorte les frontières que la nature a tracées elle-même. On en chercherait vainement une autre qui, sans s'écarter des décisions prises à Berlin, réunisse au même point tous les avantages que l'on semble exiger aujourd'hui pour éviter à deux Etats limitrophes les dépenses occasionnées par l'entretien d'une armée, d'un service sanitaire et de nombreux postes de douaniers sur leurs frontières respectives.

Les Représentants de la Grèce aux Conférences qui vont s'ouvrir à Constantinople auront sans doute l'occasion d'entretenir votre Excellence sur les avantages de tout genre qu'offre aux deux pays la ligne de démarcation que nous venons d'indiquer à grands traits. Mais les habitants de Zagori (ancienne Paravée) croiraient manquer à leur devoir s'ils ne saisissaient aussi l'occasion qui s'offre à eux de soumettre à votre Excellence les considérations qui militent en faveur de l'annexation de leur pays au Royaume Hellénique.

Le district de Zagori, Province de Janina, s'étend des bords du lac de Janina aux sommets des hautes montagnes, inaccessibles et escarpées, qui en forment les limites septentrionales. Derrière coule l'Aoos ou Voïoussa. Ces montagnes, s'élevant comme une inexpugnable forteresse, sont inaccessibles du côté du nord-ouest; la gorge étroite de Vicos, traversant un terrain fortement accidenté, à travers laquelle les bêtes féroces elles-mêmes ne sont pas à l'aise, ne peut mettre en communication les contrées situées au nord et au sud de cette chaîne. La gorge de Vicos, profondément encaissée entre les flancs des montagnes, grande déchirure produite, à une époque inconnue, par quelque violent tremblement de terre, a ouvert une issue aux eaux du versant méridional de la chaîne.

Il est vrai que dans les cartes géographiques la gorge de Vicos est marquée comme une étroite vallée dans laquelle viennent déboucher les cours d'eau de la partie occidentale de Zagori. Ces cours d'eau qui prennent leur source aux villages de Scamnéli, Négadès, Tzouditla, et Dovras, se réunissent dans le territoire compris entre les villages de Bayas, Koukouli, et Sobotzéli, déboucheraient, sous le nom de fleuve Voïdomatis, dans la gorge de Vicos. C'est là une erreur. Le Voïdomatis ne change pas de nom; il commence près du village de Vitzicos, et à trois sources, dont une à droite et deux à gauche de ce village.

En faisant de la gorge de Vicos une vallée à travers laquelle s'ouvre un passage, un fleuve navigable, les géographes ont commis une erreur d'autant plus grande qu'ils laissent croire que ce prétendu fleuve peut servir de voie de communication. Les considérations que l'on vient de développer, basées sur une étude faite sur les lieux, ne permettent pas, à cause des obstacles créés par la nature, d'ouvrir une voie de communication par la gorge de Vicos. Nous pensons que l'on doit tenir aussi compte, dans cette question, de la nationalité des habitants de Zagori, de leurs vœux, de leurs aspirations. Nous croyons devoir entrer ici dans quelques détails de nature à lever tous les doutes sur les sentiments des habitants de ce district.

Les 46 villages du district de Zagori sont habités par une population de 32,000 âmes de nationalité Hellénique et professent la religion Grecque. Les habitants de ce district se distinguent par leur amour pour l'instruction, le degré de civilisation auquel ils sont parvenus, leur esprit commercial et industriel. Ils ont fondé de nombreuses écoles de garçons et de filles; ils voyagent, pour leur commerce, dans toute la Turquie et dans la plupart des pays de l'Europe.

De tout temps, le district de Zagori possédait des priviléges exceptionnels; il était défendu aux Turcs de s'y établir; comme Pouqueville et d'autres voyageurs l'ont constaté, ses habitants jouissaient d'une certaine indépendance. C'est à cette indépendance relative qu'ils doivent les progrès accomplis dans l'ordre intellectuel. Aussi savent-ils, les hommes comme les femmes, presque tous lire et écrire. La proportion des illétrés aux gens instruits est à peine de 6 pour cent.

Depuis un temps immémorial les lettres Grecques sont cultivées avec succès à Zagori. Aussi ce district a-t-il donné à la nation des professeurs distingués, des hommes renommés par leur savoir. Ces infatigables missionnaires de l'Hellénisme, soutenus dans leur mission par un patriotisme à toute épreuve, ne se sont pas bornés à instituer, à doter des écoles dans leur pays natal, ils ont encore fondé dans le Royaume de Grèce des établissements utiles à la nationalité Hellénique tout entière. Cet ardent patriotisme ne s'est jamais démenti un seul instant. En 1821, ils ont pris les armes comme la plupart des habitants des pays de langue Grecque; leur sang a coulé sur tous les champs de bataille de la régénération Hellénique.

Le district de Zagori est, si l'on peut s'exprimer ainsi, l'âme même de Janina, qui entretient avec lui un commerce considérable; ses produits agricoles alimentent le marché de cette ville.

Telle est, en peu de mots, Excellence, la situation sociale du district de Zagori. Au point de vue géographique, il n'a d'autre voie de communication que les cols des Monts Messokélion ou Mitzkéli qui aboutissent à Janina, à laquelle il est indissolublement lié.

La nouvelle ligne de démarcation entre la Grèce et la Turquie passe, d'après la décision du Congrès de Berlin, bien au-dessus de Zagori, les sources du Kalamas se trouvant plus au nord, comme votre Excellence peut s'en convaincre en jetant un coup d'œil sur la carte géographique annexée à ce mémoire, laquelle contient des renseignements exacts sur la position de Zagori et des quarante-six villages de ce district.

Nous avons l'espoir que votre Excellence daignera prendre en considération le mémoire que nous avons l'honneur de soumettre à sa haute et impartiale appréciation, et qu'elle soutiendra nos droits afin que le district de Zagori soit compris intégralement dans les territoires qui seront cédés par la Turquie au Royaume Hellénique. Si contre toute attente, une partie du district de Zagori restait à la Turquie, les villages qui seraient privés du bonheur de faire partie de la Grèce seront abandonnés par leurs habitants, dont les uns émigreront dans le Royaume Hellénique et les autres à l'étranger, où un grand nombre de leurs compatriotes exercent la profession du commerce. Il n'est pas admissible que l'Europe, qui a entrepris d'établir en Orient un état de choses basé sur la justice, consente à sanctionner une œuvre si contraire aux principes qui font honneur à notre siècle de progrès et de civilisation.

Veuillez, &c.

(About 150 signatures.)

Le $\frac{17}{24}$ *Juillet*, 1879.

No. 141.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 779.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 1, 1879.

WITH reference to Mr. Gould's despatches to your Lordship, relating to the exchange of notes between M. Ristich and Sermed Effendi on the question of the return of the Albanian refugees to their homes in the territory assigned to Servia in the Treaty of Berlin (copies of which he has transmitted to me), I have the honour to state that I took occasion to-day to speak on the subject to Safvet Pasha. Admitting that M. Ristich's note to the Ottoman Minister was altogether unjustifiable, and couched in language such as the Porte would have a full right to resent as offensive to its dignity and insulting to its Representative, I earnestly begged his Highness not to take the matter up too seriously, or in a manner which might lead to an inter-

ruption of the friendly relations which should exist between the two countries. I urged that the Porte could afford to treat with contempt the affront placed upon Sermed Effendi, who had, I thought, passed it over with great moderation and dignity in his reply to M. Ristich.

His Highness said he was about to see M. Christich (who was then in the anteroom), and that he should not conceal from the Servian Minister his opinion of the conduct of M. Ristich; but, at the same time, he should not do anything to bring about a misunderstanding with Servia. He was, his Highness added, most anxious to maintain the most friendly relations with the Principality, and had given me a proof of it by accepting my advice to conclude a Commercial and Consular Convention with it, and by himself taking the initiative in the matter. But, unfortunately, this little State, relying upon the support of Europe, believed that it might insult and defy the Porte with impunity.

I had an opportunity of speaking to M. Christich, and of pointing out to him what could not but be considered the extreme impropriety of M. Ristich's note to Sermed Effendi, and the importance of not quarrelling with the Porte after it had shown an earnest desire to meet the wishes of the Servian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 142.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 781.)
Therapia, September 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE on several occasions called the attention of the Porte to the Reports which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Prevesa respecting the prevalence of brigandage in that province, and urged that measures should be taken for its suppression. I have now the honour to inclose an extract from a Report on the subject which has been received from the Governor-General of Janina, and communicated to me by the Porte. I have sent a copy of it to Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 142.

Réponse du Rapport de l'Ambassadeur Britannique sur l'Etat d'Insécurité qui règne dans les Districts Ruraux de Prevéza, le 30 Juillet, 1879.

Extrait d'un Rapport de son Excellence Ahmed Rassim Pacha, Gouverneur-Général de Janina, adressé à la Sublime Porte, en date du 19 Juillet, 1879 (v.s.).

IL est vrai que des bandes Hellènes, armées et organisées par des Comités formés en Grèce, viennent parfois faire quelques exploits dans le pays appuyées par certains agitateurs indigènes; mais ces faits, conséquence des circonstances politiques du moment, n'ont pas heureusement pris jusqu'ici des proportions de nature à menacer la sécurité publique; ils se réduisent simplement à des actes isolés de vol et de banditisme, et ne justifient point les alarmes rapportées à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique. Les autorités tant militaires que civiles, ainsi que la police rurale, n'ont cessé un seul instant de poursuivre les malfaiteurs, et ne leur laissent ni trêve ni repos. Une partie d'entre eux a déjà été capturée. Son Excellence Rassim Pacha regrette que le zèle et le dévouement déployés dans ces circonstances par les autorités chargées de faire face à une situation tout anormale n'aient pas trouvé une meilleure appréciation. Dès que l'enlèvement du Juif mentionné dans le Rapport de l'Ambassadeur Britannique a été connu l'autorité militaire a pris sans délai, par l'envoi des troupes sur les lieux, les mesures nécessaires tant pour poursuivre et saisir les brigands que pour sauvegarder la sécurité publique. Grâce aux mêmes mesures, la bande organisée à Corfou, par un certain Nasho Puna, en vue de tenter un coup de main sur les côtés de l'Albanie, a été dès son débarquement dispersée avant d'avoir pu rien faire, et deux des bandits com-

posant la bande ont été capturés. Tous se trouvent en effet armés de fusils nouveau système fournis par les Comités, ainsi que cela appert de l'interrogatoire auquel les prisonniers ont été soumis. Son Excellence conclut en faisant observer que ces espèces de méfaits commencent à devenir rares depuis quelque temps, et il émet l'espoir que sous peu on n'en entendra plus parler, grâce à l'énergie avec laquelle sont punis les fauteurs de troubles.

No. 143.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 782.)
Therapia, September 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the Counter-Declaration given yesterday by the Ottoman Commissioners to the Greek Plenipotentiaries in reply to the Declaration presented by the latter, of which a copy was transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 753 of the 23rd ultimo.

I am informed that M. Condouriotis was disposed to reject this Counter-Declaration, on the ground that it was a direct refusal on the part of the Porte to enter upon a discussion of the new frontier-line, and to break up the Conference. But M. Brailas took a more moderate and conciliatory view, suggesting that it should be referred to the Hellenic Government, and that the instructions which he and his colleague might receive on the subject should be communicated to the Ottoman Commissioners at their next meeting on Thursday next.

This suggestion was accepted by M. Condouriotis, and the meeting broke up without entering upon the question of the new frontier-line.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 143.

Memorandum.

A LA première réunion des Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman et du Gouvernement Royal Hellénique pour la délimitation de la nouvelle frontière entre les deux pays, les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique ont prié les Plénipotentiaires de la Sublime Porte de déclarer—

"S'ils acceptent comme base de la reprise des négociations les déterminations du Protocole 13 du Congrès de Berlin, à savoir, la Vallée du Calamas, en Epire, et celle du Penée, en Thessalie."

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont cru devoir faire remarquer que la question telle qu'elle est posée par les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques semble faire supposer que dans leur pensée la Sublime Porte aurait donné son adhésion aux indications inscrites au Protocole 13 au sujet d'une rectification de frontière en Epire et en Thessalie, et qu'elle serait dès lors tenue de considérer ces indications comme obligatoires de telle sorte qu'il lui serait interdit de proposer de discuter, et d'adopter aucun tracé qui n'aurait pas pour point de départ la Vallée du Salamgria, sur le versant de la Mer Egée, et celle de Calamas du côté de la Mer Ionienne.

Les Commissaires Ottomans sont convaincus que les déclarations du Protocole 13 relatives à cet objet ne sauraient dans aucun cas recevoir l'interprétation que paraissent vouloir bien leur donner les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques. Le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France, promoteur de cette déclaration, en a indiqué lui-même le véritable caractère en proposant au Congrès "d'indiquer d'une manière générale, et sans porter atteinte à la souveraineté de la Sublime Porte, les limites qu'il voudrait voir assigner à la Grèce."

Les termes mêmes de la déclaration adoptée à la suite de cette proposition confirment l'idée d'un simple vœu destiné à favoriser les négociations futures.

On serait encore moins fondé à supposer que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans à Berlin aient donné à cette déclaration une adhésion expresse ou tacite; ils ont fait au contraire à ce sujet les réserves les plus formelles, et le Président du Congrès a pris soin dans la séance du 11 Juillet, 1879, Protocole 18, de constater "que le Congrès exprimait un vœu, et non pas une résolution, à laquelle la Porte soit sollicitée de s'asso-

cier. Ces Puissances se bornent à exprimer qu'elles soient animées du désir de voir réussir les négociations, et sur ce point la Porte n'ayant pas d'opinion à donner ni de décision à prendre en Congrès."

Il paraît impossible d'établir plus clairement d'une part que le tracé général, indiqué au Protocole 13, a été simplement suggéré, mais non déterminé, et encore moins imposé par les Puissances; et, d'autre part, que la Sublime Porte non-seulement ne s'est liée à ce sujet par aucun engagement, mais encore que cet engagement ne lui a jamais été demandé.

Si les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques admettent cette explication, qui définit la véritable situation de la Sublime Porte, en ce qui touche la déclaration du Protocole 13, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans déclarent être exposés par considération pour le vœu exprimé par les Puissances à prendre comme bases premières des négociations qui vont s'ouvrir, les indications mentionnées au dit Protocole, pourvu qu'il soit bien entendu que ces bases ne lient en aucune façon les deux Gouvernements, qui pourront librement les discuter et les modifier au même titre que tel autre point de départ qui aurait pu être proposée par l'une ou l'autre des parties.

No. 144.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 783.)
Therapia, September 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a despatch addressed to the Ministry of the Interior by Abedin Bey, the Turkish Reform Commissioner for the Vilayet of Diarbekir, which has been communicated to me by the Porte, relative to his proceedings in that province.

I have sent a copy of this document to Major Trotter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 144.

Extrait d'une Dépêche adressée au Ministère de l'Intérieur par Abedin Bey, Premier Commissaire pour le Vilayet de Diarbékir, en date du 6 Juillet, 1879 (v. s.).

LES Arméniens ne sont pas les seuls à se plaindre des actes d'agression et de vexation de certains Beys et Aghas Kurdes; une notable partie des paysans Musulmans en ont eu également à souffrir. Quoiqu'il en soit, tous les Beys désignés par M. le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique ont été arrêtés et conduits au chef-lieu, où leur procès s'instruit avec le plus grand soin. Dès que les méfaits qui leur sont imputés seront établis ils seront condamnés à la déportation. Mehmed Réchid Agha de Silivan est le seul qui ait été provisoirement mis en liberté sous caution. Toutefois, comme des réclamations et des griefs viennent de se produire contre lui aussi, il sera également soumis à l'interrogation et puni suivant le degré de culpabilité. D'ailleurs, son élargissement provisoire avait pour but de calmer les appréhensions d'une dizaine d'autres Aghas qui n'ont pu être encore saisis, et d'amener leur arrestation en leur donnant le change sur l'intention du Gouvernement à leur égard. Abedin Bey conclut en affirmant qu'il déploie ses efforts pour mettre fin aux abus dans la province et y ramener l'ordre et la sécurité. Il compte se rendre ensuite dans la région de Mamouriétul Aziz, où il espère également infliger à tous les malfaiteurs la punition qu'ils méritent.

No. 145.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 788.)
Therapia, September 2, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant Kitchener, dated from Ada Bazar, reporting

the condition of affairs in that district. I shall take immediate steps to bring Lieutenant Kitchener's statement to the notice of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 145.

Lieutenant Kitchener to Sir A. H. Layard.

Ada Bazar, August 29, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I arrived at Ada Bazar on the 27th instant. The Armenian Bishop Stephan, to whom your Excellency had provided me with letters, accompanied me from Ismid. I was met by deputations from the Armenian, Protestant, and Greek communities of the town at a considerable distance from Ada Bazar; crowds of Turks, as well as Christians, met me outside the town and lined the street; numbers of them called out that they had been robbed and maltreated by the Circassians.

Ada Bazar contains 8,000 Armenians, 2,000 Turks, 1,500 Greeks, and 300 Protestants. It is the residence of a Kaïmakam, who is under the orders of the Muttesarif of Ismid; the latter is under the Cheir Emini of Constantinople, Mehemet Arif Pasha.

The Kaïmakam has been dismissed, and no one has yet been appointed in his place. A Lieutenant is Acting Kaïmakam, and is anxious to be nominated to that post, but he is much disliked by the inhabitants, and is supposed to be in relation with the Circassians.

The Muttesarif of Ismid, Faizé Bey, informed me, when I saw him at Ismid, that he knew nothing of Circassian outrages of any sort, and, notwithstanding the number of petitions that have been sent to him from Ada Bazar, he has not visited this place since he has been appointed, and appears to have taken no steps for the safety of the roads in his district. From the interview I had with his Excellency, and from the reports that have been given me of his conduct, I am of opinion that it will be extremely difficult to improve the state of the district while under the administration of Faizé Bey.

The Turkish Commander, Ibrahim Bey, has been here for the last two months. He has not been able to do much, having no soldiers to carry out his orders; many cases of daring robbery in the town and villages round, and some cases of murder, have been committed since he has been here. I had a long interview with him yesterday. He at first was inclined to make light of the disorders, but, when pressed with cases, he admitted that a number of cases of robbery and violence had been committed since he had been here, and that he was unable to do anything for want of soldiers, for which he had repeatedly applied to Constantinople. He also admitted that his predecessors and the former Kaimakam and Cadi had taken bribes to allow Circassian prisoners to escape. He has 16 mounted Bashi-Bazouks and 20 foot soldiers in the district under his orders, and has asked for 100 more, 80 of whom should be mounted. He agreed that the first step to be taken was to render the roads safe for travellers, but stated, with his present force, it was impossible to do so. He admitted that the petition sent by the inhabitants to the Sublime Porte, stating the cases of murder and robbery, had been proved to be true, but stated some of the cases occurred as much as ten years ago. He informed me that the principal offender was Kambulat Bey, a powerful Circassian, who is now living in the town free, and that one of the first things should be his arrest and exile, without which no permanent good was possible. With regard to this man, I have learnt that he has been many times condemned in other districts, but never punished, owing to his having a daughter with considerable influence in the Palace at Constantinople. Ibrahim Bey informed me that he had about fifty Circassians in prison here, some of whom were great offenders. I then asked him his opinion on the measures to be taken for the permanent settlement of the Circassian question, whether it would be possible to disarm the Circassians, and send the refugees to some other vilayet where the preponderance of Circassians to inhabitants would not be three to one, as it is here; or whether they could be disarmed, and, by breaking the power of the Beys, who hold them in a sort of slavery, they might not be made to work, instead of living in idleness. The latter appeared to Ibrahim Bey the more feasible means of settling the question, and he stated that he had already written to that effect to the Porte, and had suggested that a permanent official should be appointed

to keep the Circassians of the district in order. He stated that, if soldiers were given to him, he was quite prepared to carry out the disarmament. He informed me that he was about to return to Constantinople for a short time; I pointed out to him that in that case the town and district would be left without any official (as there is no Kaïmakam), and would be completely at the mercy of the Circassians. I asked him, in case he left, to appoint a representative. I have since learnt that the people view with considerable terror his proposed departure, as they state that it will prove to the Circassians that he has failed, and that it will be the signal for fresh excesses.

The Circassians of the district number between 40,000 and 45,000.

About two years ago the first settlers established themselves in the district; they were peaceable and were liked. Before the war there were between 15,000 and 20,000 Circassians; since then emigrants from Turkey in Europe and from Sukhum Kale in Asia have arrived in large numbers; the majority is said to come from Sukhum Kale. I am told that a deputation of the Circassians is coming to see me, and that they have a curious story to relate of there being 6,000 Christians amongst them.

The armed emigrants arriving from both east and west have settled here; they steal horses and cattle, and appropriate land belonging to others. I have had many cases of this sort brought before me, the Turkish and Christian families being reduced to extreme want. If there were any means at your Excellency's disposal I would recommend some of these cases to your Excellency for relief. Since the war I am told there have been fifty cases of murder, and many cases of violence and outrage of women in this district, which contains sixty Turkish and fifteen Christian villages, with a population of about 17,000.

The Circassians live in great subjection to their Beys, amounting almost to slavery, as they sometimes purchase their freedom. The Beys sell Circassian girls to the Pashas at Constantinople, and this gives them great confidence, as they always have an advocate at Court, so much so that they deny the authority of the Courts here in the boldest way; even as prisoners before the Medjliss they openly threaten the members. A number of them, about 150, came mounted and armed to the konak a few days ago, and threatened the Government officials; they could not be dispersed by the police, whose officer they openly cursed and defied. Your Excellency can imagine the state of the town while such proceedings were going on; no one was arrested.

Yesterday I received a deputation of the notables of the town; after stating a number of cases of horrible murder, outrage, and robbery committed lately in this district, some of which I propose to examine more minutely later, they declared their opinion that the means required to restore order were:—

1. To obtain sufficient soldiers to protect travellers on the roads by patrols and stations near the Circassian villages, and to disarm the more unruly Circassians.

2. To release the Circassians from the slavery to their Beys, which would have a civilizing tendency.

3. The residence of an English Consul.

4. A proper reorganization of the gendarmerie.

They complain bitterly that Christians' evidence is not taken by the Courts, that justice is not obtainable, and that when prisoners are condemned that they escape by paying bribes.

I beg to urge your Excellency to move the Porte to send a sufficient number of soldiers to protect the inhabitants of the town and travellers on the roads, and also orders to proceed with the disarmament of the most unruly Circassians without delay. I am of opinion that 200 soldiers would be necessary. Also to use your Excellency's influence that such offenders as Kambulat Bey, who has been frequently condemned, should not be allowed to openly defy the Government. I would also suggest to your Excellency the importance of appointing a good Kaïmakam for this district, and the fact that the present Mutessarif, Faizi Bey, is a most unsatisfactory official, apparently incapable of carrying out any organization for the improvement of the district. I am of opinion that considerable danger to the inhabitants of the town might accrue if Ibrahim Bey leaves before anything is done, and before a Kaïmakam is appointed. The Armenian Bishop has already been threatened by the Circassians for the steps he has taken to bring the state of things before your Excellency.

I will telegraph to your Excellency in case Ibrahim Bey leaves.

I will wait your Excellency's orders here; telegrams and letters will be forwarded from Ismid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. KITCHENER.

No. 146.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 791.)
Therapia, September 2, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Adrianople, Rustchuk, Prevesa, Gallipoli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 146.

Mr. Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, August 23, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to a statement made in the Greek newspaper "Neologos," of the 20th instant, that seventeen Christians had been murdered in the village of Scrayo, near Visa, in the district of Rodosto, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that, from the inquiries I have made on the subject, it appears that the report in question is entirely false.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. S. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 146.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Sir A. H. Layard.

Rustchuk, August 23, 1879.

Sir,

IN continuation of previous despatches, I have the honour to report to your Excellency the present position of the Rustchuk fortifications.

1. The town walls and ditch remain as they were reported by me on the 22nd May, with the exception of those forts from above the Danube Steamers Company's offices to the Lom, where the Tirnovo road crosses it, which have been razed.

2. Leaving Rustchuk by the Silistria gate, there is, on the right, in the plain, a breastwork which is untouched.

Farther on, to the right of the road, a fort, No. 3, razed. To the left, just outside Said Pasha's garden, another, No. 4, razed. After crossing the railway on the left, a small fort, No. 5, razed. Farther on to the right, a breastwork with polygon forts at either end, No. 6, forts razed.

In rear of that a fort, No. 7, the parapets, &c., untouched, but the timbers of the casements removed, so that after the rains they will fall in.

Repassing the railway, and on a height in the vineyards position aligning the railway workshops with Giurgevo, a fort, No. 8, parapets, &c., razed, two small pentagon, loopholed, stone structures, in the angles of the ditch, unroofed. Two forts, Nos. 9 and 10, between No. 8 and the Shumla road, razed. Two forts, Nos. 11 and 12, in advance of "Levan Tabia," and one, No. 13, to its left close to the Shumla road, razed. "Levan Tabia," No. 14, untouched. A fort to the south-west, overlooking the Lom, No. 15, razed. Across the Lom, to the south of the Tirnovo road, a fort surrounded by an entrenched camp, No. 16, all the woodwork removed, parapets, &c., untouched, but crumbling away. Between No. 16 and the Danube, returning towards Rustchuk, a fort, No. 17, razed. There were several advanced works beyond Nos. 16 and 17, but as they were only hastily-formed breastworks I only visited the nearest, which is untouched.

To sum up, if "Levan-Tabia" were blown up, it might be said that the fortifications of Rustchuk have been destroyed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 146.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Sir A. H. Layard.

Therapia, August 30, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I visited the fortifications of Shumla on Tuesday, 26th, and Wednesday, 27th instant, and found them as follows:—

1. Besh Tépé, the advanced fort to the west of the road leading from the railway station to Shumla. The stone front and a small part of the brick arch of the central traverse have been destroyed; the upper earthworks of the parapets to the depth of 1 to 1½ mètres have been thrown into the ditch; the remainder of this very extensive work remains intact.

2. Going westward there are a number of forts connected by breastworks, the principal is called Moscov Tabia, and all may be said to be razed.

3. Yildis Tabia, a very extensive stone fort on the summit of an outlying spur of the high ground to the south and west of Shumla. Very little damage has been done to the stonework of the fort, but the upper earthwork has been thrown into the ditches, and a lot of the coping stones displaced. The barracks have been unroofed and all the woodwork carried away.

4. On the high ground to the south of Shumla all the forts, which were earthworks, may be said to be razed.

5. On the spur to the east of Shumla, corresponding to No. 3 on the west, there is a large fort of which the earthwork has been razed, but I believe not very much has been done to the stonework.

6. Kasaplar, the advanced fort on the east of the road to the railway station, is a very extensive fort, but was never finished; its galleries remain almost intact, but the superincumbent earth has been thrown into the ditch, generally so as almost to conceal the entrances to the lower works.

7. Between Nos. 1 and 6 and the town are a number of small earthworks on which very little time seems to have been spent; these remain as they were.

8. Canly Tabia, in rear of No. 6, and Chalby Tabia, in rear of No. 1, have scarcely been touched, only that the earth to the depth of about 1 mètre has been thrown into the ditches.

After I had visited the greater part of what I have described I called on the Governor (Natchalnik) and told him that I had come to see what had been done towards demolishing the fortifications according to the Treaty of Berlin. He told me that he had not been much more than a week in his post, and had not had time to visit any of the works; was aware that the work of destruction had ceased. This was because it had been confided to a contractor who, after doing what I saw, came to the Municipality and demanded a certificate that he had finished his work. The Municipality refused to grant such a certificate, whereupon the contractor left for Varna. The Municipality of Shumla had had some correspondence with the superior authorities of Varna as to what had been done, and had now received orders to continue the demolition themselves, which, he said, they intended to do as soon as labour was a little more plentiful. He feared that there would be a considerable loss to the Municipality from the work to be done, for they could never get as much for the dressed stones as it would cost to quarry them. In this I believe he is right, for after all there is comparatively a small amount of stonework to brickwork. I suggested blowing up the works, but he replied that would not do, for they must try to do the work as cheaply as possible, and added that it would probably take about ten years before all the stones could be removed and sold.

Then he asked me what I wanted them to do. Did I ask them to proceed at once and as quickly as possible? I replied that I had no authority to ask him to do anything, that I was only making a report on the actual condition of the fortress, but that I presumed he was acquainted with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 146.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, August 23, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that M. Kypriotis reports the departure for Constantinople of Mustafa Achmet Pasha, Deputy of Janina, of Kiamil Effendi, and of Achmet Effendi; the latter, who is a Judge of the Supreme Court, proceeds viâ Monastir, and that the object of this visit to the capital is to declare that the inhabitants mean to offer resistance should it be decided to annex this country to Greece.

I avail myself of this opportunity to inclose translation of M. Kypriotis' despatch relative to brigandage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 146.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

Janina, August 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that, on Monday last, a band of brigands, fifteen in number, entered the village of Zagori, called Dragari, and carried off from the house of a widow two of her children, and demanded a heavy ransom.

On the same day, in the neighbourhood of Zepelovon, Zagori, another band of brigands captured a wealthy peasant, Christodulides by name, and £T. 600 is demanded for his release.

A few days back the Mutessarif of Argyrocastro captured the famous brigand chief Kanali, with two of his men. This brigand is the one who murdered the Cadi of Libokovo, as reported in a previous despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

Inclosure 6 in No. 146.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Sir A. H. Layard.

Gallipoli, le 26 Août, 1879.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que le cuirassé Turc "Ifzi Pruckman" a débarqué ici deux bataillons d'infanterie venant de Dédéagach et Férédjik.

Le Commandant-en-chef, Sélami Pasha, a reçu l'ordre de licencier dix bataillons de rédifs.

Les malades ont considérablement augmenté à l'hôpital militaire: de 450 ils ont augmenté, dans l'espace de dix jours, à 800 et plus.

Les fournisseurs ne donnent plus de viande aux troupes qui se trouvent aux fortifications. Le Commandant-en-chef et le Gouverneur ne savent plus quoi faire pour arriver à nourrir les troupes. Le Gouverneur me disait hier qu'il y a à craindre une révolte si l'on ne porte un remède immédiat à cet état de choses.

Les troupes aux lignes sont réduites à se nourrir d'un pain noir. Dans les magasins de l'Intendance il n'y a pas un grain de riz, ni haricots, ni aucun autre comestible à l'exception de farine.

En présence de cet état de choses ce n'est pas étonnant de voir les vignes et les champs de melons ravagés par les soldats. Un meurtre aussi a été commis à mi-chemin entre Gallipoli et les fortifications. On dit que quelques soldats ont commis ce meurtre, mais le Commandant-en-chef ne veut pas admettre cela. Il n'admet pas non plus que les soldats commettent des vols, et par suite il y a impunité absolue.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ODONI.

Inclosure 7 in No. 146.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, August 29, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 21st instant, inclosing one from Mr. Consul-General Michell, of the 7th instant, referring to a communication he had received from the Secretary-General of Eastern Roumelia, denying, upon the strength of a report from the Prefect of Bourgas, the facts deposed to in a document I forwarded in my despatch of the 28th May, 1879, from the Turkish villagers in the Misevra-Ahiolo district, and in general impugning its authenticity.

In reply, I have to state that the inquiry in question was conducted by M. Spiridion, the then President of the Council of Justice (Davi Reis) of Ahiolo, a person in league with M. Dimitry Brakalof, for a long time President of the Executive Council (Idaré Reis) of the same district, under whose auspices most of the plundering and persecution of the Mussulmans of those parts took place, with great pecuniary benefit to himself and partners; and, this being so, it is hardly reasonable that M. Spiridion should be expected to find substantiated certain crimes which might be brought to their door.

M. Brakalof was, I believe, summoned to Philippopoli just before the arrival of Aleko Pasha as Governor of Eastern Roumelia, and managed to be acquitted of certain charges brought against him, whereby, however, according to common belief, he had to consent to part with some portion of his extra-official revenues; but the real complainants were never summoned, nor was the inquiry conducted in a proper manner.

As regards the outrages on Mussulmans set forth in the document forwarded, I have it, on the asseveration of independent (Christian) inhabitants of those parts, that the statement errs only on the side of incompleteness.

With respect to the certificates, in writing, denying all knowledge of facts previously alleged, there are three principal methods in vogue of procuring such writings, which system has been much extended and improved since the cessation of the direct Ottoman dominion:—

1. By means of threats or actual ill-usage, making the persons concerned draw up and seal or sign the required statement in their own language.

2. Presenting them a document in an unknown (to them) language, and ordinarily misrepresenting its contents.

3. Exacting by force the seals of the village community, and appending them to a blank paper, to be filled up when, where, and how it may be requisite.

I have heard that it is in contemplation to send another Commission to inquire into the grievances of the Mussulmans in the Balkans; but I hope I may be allowed to remark that it would be desirable that its members, or at least some of them, should be above suspicion, otherwise its probable effects would be only to aggravate the evils it was sent to cure.

In conclusion, I must state, in all fairness, that the inquiry headed by M. Spiridion had the salutary effect of showing the local authorities that certain excesses did not pass quite unnoticed, and that, consequently, robberies, and worse outrages, have since become comparatively scarce in those districts, though by no means non-existent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 147.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 260.)
My Lord,

Belgrade, August 27, 1879.

SERVIAN traders arriving from Bosnia report growing and widespread discontent amongst all classes of the population, and considerable military activity in pushing up troops and stores towards the defiles leading into the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, the approaching occupation of which by Austria-Hungary is viewed here with much apprehension.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 148.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 261.)
My Lord,

Belgrade, September 1, 1879.

THE last frail tie which still marked the connection between the Orthodox Greek Church in Servia and the Patriarchate at Constantinople has been severed, an amicable arrangement having been come to whereby the Metropolitan of Servia has been released from the obligation of paying the small sum he was bound annually to remit to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 149.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 265.)
My Lord,

Belgrade, September 3, 1879.

M. RISTICH, whom I saw this morning on his return from Nisch, informed me that the question of the Albanian refugees had been settled with the concurrence of Prince Milan in a way which he felt confident would satisfy the Powers. The demand lately addressed by the Porte, on their behalf, to the Servian Government would be met in a friendly spirit, and Colonel Horwartowitch, the military commander of the southern frontier, would receive at once full powers to make whatever arrangements he might think proper to facilitate the return to Servia of any of these Albanians who would petition the Prince for permission to be restored to their former homes.

Much will of course depend upon the manner in which the above measure will be carried out, but the choice of Colonel Horwartowitch as Commissioner is the best that could possibly have been made, for he is well acquainted with the country and the people he has been called upon to deal with, and is universally looked up to as a gallant and upright officer who would be a credit to any army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 150.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 198.)
My Lord,

Philippopoli, August 29, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of the declaration made yesterday at a meeting of the Commission by the two Ottoman Delegates, on the subject of the letter published in the "Maritza" on the 12th instant by sixteen officers of the militia, denying that they had drunk the health of the Sultan on the anniversary of His Majesty's birthday, and complaining that an allegation to that effect was calculated to "compromise their good relations with the wise and patriotic population of this province."

In giving my adherence to that declaration, I explained that I did so on the ground that all the Powers signatory of the Treaty of Berlin were equally interested in upholding the principle of the Sultan's sovereignty in this province, a principle which had been assailed by the officers in question, if the letter published in the "Maritza" was genuine, and at all events by the responsible editor of that journal, if in the face of well-known facts, the authenticity of the letter should be disputed.

I added that, although it was for the Porte and its Representatives to take such steps as might be deemed necessary in the case which had now been brought to the notice of the Commission by the Ottoman Delegates, yet, as the act of publishing such a disloyal declaration affected one of the most important principles of the Treaty of

Berlin, so far as it concerned this province, the Commission which was at present charged with the duty of watching over the proper application of the Organic Statute would have failed in that duty if had omitted to include in the official record of its proceedings an incident of which the gravity and future danger were apparent.

While avoiding to specify the nationality of the officers to whom reference had been made, I further argued that, since this province would for some time to come stand in need of foreign military instructors, it was essential that all aliens serving in the militia and gendarmerie of Eastern Roumelia should be made to understand, in the infancy of their career, that they were technically only mercenaries in the service of the Sultan, and paid out of the revenues of a province which formed an integral part of His Majesty's dominions. They should also be made to understand that no political or patriotic character is attached to such service.

Prince Tzeretelew having taken up the word "mercenaire," I explained that I had used it in a technical, not an offensive, sense, and that, passing over many more modern illustrations of the meaning of that word, it was equally applicable to the English and Scottish officers who had in the seventeenth century organized the first regular forces of the Czar of Muscovy.

In the course of further observations which I made to Prince Tzeretelew, who disputed, contrary to established facts, the correctness of my historical allusion, I said that it was still more necessary that the officers of the militia and gendarmerie should be made to feel that the Sovereign whom they served in Eastern Roumelia was the Sultan of Turkey, since the greater part of those officers continued to wear, on their military caps and calpaks, not only the emblem of the Cross, which was naturally objectionable to the Mussulman population, as well as contrary to the provisions of the Organic Statute, but also the Russian cockade, for the wearing of which there was no justification whatever.

The Russian Commissioner replied that if I found fault with the wearing of the Russian cockade he would consider it to be his duty to bring forward a motion on the subject of the present unsatisfactory administration of the militia and gendarmerie.

I said that I certainly considered the wearing of the cockade in a serious light, and that I should be only too glad to follow him in an inquiry into the causes of the anarchical condition of the local forces.

It was ultimately agreed that my observations on the conduct and position of the militia officers should not appear in the *comple-rendu*, which should simply mention the grounds on which I had adhered to the Turkish declaration, and that Prince Tzeretelew had observed in reply that the sovereignty of the Sultan had not been called into question by the incident which had given rise to the declaration.

I may add that, the Russian Commissioner having maintained that the conduct of the officers had been condoned by the fact that General Vitalis had subsequently entertained them at dinner, I replied that I could only consider the latter fact in the light of a comedy, and that General Vitalis would probably justify himself by stating that he had not been able to obtain officially the names of the officers who had signed the letter to the "Maritza."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 150.

Declaration.

LE numéro 104 de la "Maritza" du $\frac{31 \text{ Juillet}}{12 \text{ Août}}$ contient une lettre dans laquelle un certain nombre d'officiers de la milice à la solde de cette province, qui fait partie intégrante de l'Empire Ottoman, protestent contre l'allégation qu'ils auraient porté un toast à Sa Majesté le Sultan à l'occasion de l'anniversaire de la naissance de Sa Majesté, et affirment qu'une pareille assertion est de nature à compromettre leur bonne intelligence avec le sage et patriotique population de ce pays.

Considérant que les officiers subalternes à la solde de la province, quelle que soit leur nationalité, sont nommés par délégation de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et qu'ils se trouvent, par conséquent, au service de Sa Majesté, les Commissaires Ottomans tiennent à constater que la publication d'une telle lettre prouve, de la part de ses auteurs, une complète méconnaissance de leurs devoirs vis-à-vis du Souverain territorial qu'ils servent, et est de nature à saper l'ordre légal dans la province, le démenti qu'ils donnent fût-il vrai ou non.

No. 151.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 199.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, August* 29, 1879.

ON the motion of the Russian Delegate, the Commission considered yesterday the petition of which I have the honour to inclose an abstract, and which emanates from the inhabitants of Bulgarian villages situated in the Caza of Ali-Tchelebi, on the left bank of the Arda, who pray that they may not be excluded from the territorial limits of this province by the boundary traced by the Delimitation Commission under the Treaty of Berlin.

The Commission unanimously resolved that the subject was not within the range of its competency; but, in virtue of a precedent, the Commissioners "reserved to themselves the right" of forwarding the petition to the respective Ambassadors at the Porte, which I have accordingly done, as a matter of form.

Prince Tzeretelew had proposed in his motion that the Commissioners should engage to adopt the above course, but this was at once negatived by all the other Delegates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Abstract of Petition bearing about Sixty Signatures.

LES pétitionnaires exposent que le Caza d'Ali-Tchelebi, situé dans le massif du Rhodope faisait partie du Sandjak de Philippopoli. Ce caza se composait de 40 villages, dont 20 exclusivement Bulgares, 1 moitié Bulgare, moitié Turc, et les 19 autres Musulmans.

Presque tous les villages Bulgares, disent les pétitionnaires, se trouvent sur la rive gauche de l'Arda, tandis que les villages Turcs sont situés sur la rive droite de la même rivière.

Malgré leurs réclamations auprès des Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople, leurs villages ont été laissés par le Traité de Berlin hors de la Roumélie.

Lors du passage de la Commission de Délimitation, continuent les pétitionnaires, les habitants Chrétiens des villages lui remirent une pétition demandant que leurs villages fissent partie de la province autonome. La Commission de Délimitation n'ayant aucune instruction à ce sujet les adressa à la Commission Européenne siégeant à Philippopoli.

Les pétitionnaires ajoutent que la frontière naturelle et géographique de la province est la Rivière Arda, que presque tous les villages en deçà de cette rivière sont Bulgares, et que tous les rapports et les intérêts de ces villages sont avec Philippopoli.

Ils espèrent que la Commission Européenne ne permettra pas que la population Bulgare de ce caza soit exclue de la Roumélie, et ne participe point aux bienfaits de l'autonomie.

Philippopoli, le 6 Août, 1879.

No. 152.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 200.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, August* 29, 1879.

THE Italian Commissioner having returned from Constantinople, a meeting of the Commission was held yesterday, under the presidency of M. de Ring, in order to consider a motion of which he had given notice, and of which I had the honour to inclose a copy to your Lordship in my despatch No. 175 of the 14th instant.

After the question of the petition which forms the subject of my despatch No. 199 of this date had been disposed of, the French Commissioner submitted his motion, as well as the letter which he had addressed to M. de Kallay on the subject of the necessity of establishing a customs line on the frontier between this province and

the Principality of Bulgaria, and of giving the supervision or control over that line to Ottoman officials.

A discussion ensued, in the course of which the Italian Commissioner argued that his colleagues were travelling beyond the limits of their competency in discussing a question which was already under consideration at the Porte, in connection with a projected Convention with the Principality of Bulgaria.

Prince Tzeretelew supported him in that line of argument, and ultimately asked the Turkish Commissioners whether they were acting under specific instructions in discussing the motion of Baron de Ring.

He was informed by my Ottoman colleagues that they had received no special instructions, but that their powers as Commissioners were quite sufficient for the purpose of discussing the motion of the French Commissioner, to which they gave their entire assent.

Baron de Ring then replied, at some length, to Prince Tzeretelew in defence of that part of his motion which is intended to give control or supervision to the Ottoman authorities over a customs service which, in every other respect, was intended by the Organic Statute to be conducted by local officials.

Before, however, any other member had an opportunity of expressing his opinion on the substance or details of Baron de Ring's motion, the Italian Commissioner proposed the amendment of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, and which merely affirms the necessity of establishing, as soon as possible, a customs line between Eastern Roumelia and the Principality of Bulgaria, and advises the Governor-General to apply on that customs line the Tariffs now in force in the Ottoman Empire, or such as may result from a subsequent agreement between the Sublime Porte and the Principality.

I took upon myself to point out that this amendment was equivalent to an acceptance of part of Baron de Ring's motion, and only differed from it by its reference to a subsequent Convention with the neighbouring Principality, a contingency which was amply provided for by Article 106 of the Organic Statute.

Signor Vernoni, however, maintained, in reply to further observations by the German Commissioner, that his amendment was intended to be in entire substitution of Baron de Ring's motion.

M. de Braunschweig thereupon submitted to the President that the discussion was practically closed, and Baron de Ring, acquiescing in that view, put M. Vernoni's amendment to the vote.

M. de Braunschweig, who was first in alphabetical order, at once gave a negative vote, on the ground that, although he had no objection to the substance of the amendment, yet that it had been submitted in substitution of Baron de Ring's motion.

The Austrian acting Delegate, M. Cingria, gave a similar vote without comment, and I joined with my Ottoman colleagues in likewise rejecting the amendment on the same ground as that which had been taken up by M. de Braunschweig, with the addition of an objection to the mention of an ulterior Convention with the Principality of Bulgaria.

The President then proposed, according to what appeared to be the practice of the Commission, to discuss the details of the original motion, but M. Vernoni declared emphatically that he would take no part in such discussion, as the proposals of Baron de Ring were in opposition to the spirit and the letter of the Organic Statute.

The French Commissioner thereupon expressed the indignation of the majority of his colleagues at the course which M. Vernoni had adopted. He declared with some warmth that the Italian Commissioner was "doing violence" to the meeting, and that his refusal to continue a discussion in which he had already largely taken part, and which had shown that the original motion was acceptable to the majority, a refusal which evidently arose from the fact that he had only succeeded in obtaining the vote of the Russian Commissioner, was quite inadmissible in fairness and according to the rules of debate which had hitherto prevailed at the meetings of the Commission.

The President was supported in this view by all the Delegates who had voted against the amendment, and more especially by M. de Braunschweig.

Prince Tzeretelew then came to the rescue of M. Vernoni, and suggested the course which the latter at last adopted, namely, that of declaring that he could not enter into any further discussion of Baron de Ring's motion until he had obtained instructions, with which he would at once ask the Italian Government to supply him.

The discussion of the motion was consequently adjourned to Tuesday next, the 3rd proximo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 152.

M. Vernoni's Amendment.

LA Commission est d'avis que le Gouverneur-Général prenne les dispositions nécessaires pour établir, le plus tôt possible, le cordon douanier sur la frontière entre la Roumélie Orientale et la Principauté de Bulgarie, et qu'il applique les Tarifs Douaniers actuellement en vigueur dans l'Empire Ottoman ou ceux qui seront établis ultérieurement par une entente entre la Sublime Porte et la Principauté de Bulgarie.

No. 153.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 203.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, August 30, 1879.*

PRINCE TZERETELEW again drew attention, at the meeting of the Commission held the day before yesterday, to the provisions of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, and while ironically asking the Ottoman Delegates if they could state "approximatively" the period at which the Commission would "probably" be seized with the question of advising the Porte on the subject of the administration of the other European provinces of Turkey, stated, as a fact, that the Commissions specified in that Article had not yet even been appointed.

The Ottoman Commissioner declined giving any answer, and referred Prince Tzeretelew to the reply which they had made at the meeting of the Commission on the 30th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 154.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No 205.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, August 30, 1879.*

HAVING ascertained that, notwithstanding the promise I obtained from the Governor-General on the 23rd instant, Turkish refugees were being searched with greater severity than ever, their empty leather bags and even bread knives being confiscated, I represented to Aleko Pasha, semi-officially, that his orders in this respect had not yet been carried out.

I took the opportunity of informing him that I had met at the village of Izvor, in the Rhodope, two Bulgarian peasants from a neighbouring village armed with Krinka rifles, who had assured me that they had been ordered to carry those arms by the police.

I also mentioned to his Excellency that, while riding through the Turkish village of Yenikeui, in the Rhodope, I had been struck by the fact that the neighbouring mountains resounded with rifle shots, and that, on asking the Turkish villagers the meaning of the fusillade, they had replied that the Bulgarian gymnasts were in the habit of making such demonstrations of force in order to intimidate their Mussulman brethren, whose fields they were in the habit of robbing, and whose woods they frequently set on fire. This, I pointed out to his Excellency, would probably account for the conflagrations which illuminate the heights of the Rhodope almost every night.

I received no reply to my communication, but the Governor-General issued orders yesterday to the Police Master prohibiting the searching of Turkish refugees on their arrival at Philippopoli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 155.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 207.)
Philippopoli, August 30, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Prefect of Police informed me yesterday, confidentially, that his secret agents had reported to him the existence of a Mahommedan conspiracy in this town. Those agents alleged that the conspirators intended to organize a disturbance in the Rhodope district, and to massacre the Christians at Philippopoli after the town had been denuded of troops sent to quell such a disturbance.

They also stated that the Turks had a large depôt of arms at Philippopoli.

It appears that the Prefect made a report in the above sense to the Governor-General, who observed, in reply, that the Turks were given to much talking, but were seldom disposed to act.

I told the Prefect that the Governor-General might be mistaken on this point, for the Turks were only human, and would possibly not bear much longer with their present quietness the oppression and injustice to which they were subjected.

On the other hand, I asked him if his secret agents had kept him informed respecting the doings of the "National Committee," and whether they kept a strict watch over the arsenal of that body, which was likewise situated on the opposite bank of the river.

Captain Raikovitch replied that he had received no report on that subject, but that he would instruct his agents to look into the matter at once—an intention which he recorded by making a knot in his pocket-handkerchief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 156.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 208.)
Philippopoli, August 30, 1879.

My Lord,

I BEG to inclose a series of extracts from the "Narodni Glas" (National Voice), a Bulgarian newspaper lately established in this town, tending to show that the Mussulman population of Eastern Roumelia have no cause for complaint against the Bulgarian majority, but, on the contrary, have every reason to be satisfied with the present régime.

The second of these extracts consists of a Declaration to the above effect, purporting to be signed by "the representatives of the Mussulman population of Kyzanlik."

Documents of this kind, as your Lordship must be aware, have no value in any part of the Levant, where signatures by the score to any given declaration are obtained from the peasantry by coaxing or intimidation.

It is worthy of note that the Bulgarian press in this province has of late systematically pursued the course of endeavouring to convince the Mussulmans that it is their interest to side with the Slavs rather than with the Greeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Extract from the "Narodni Glas" of August 28, 1879.

NOUS Soussignées, citoyens Musulmans de la ville de Kazanlik, considérons comme un devoir sacré d'exprimer publiquement notre gratitude au bailli actuel du canton, M. P. Ivanoff, lequel, depuis notre retour, ne cesse de nous montrer la plus grande équité et impartialité dans toutes nos relations avec l'autorité locale.

Comme preuve de son esprit de justice, M. le bailli a fait évacuer une des meilleures mosquées de la ville et il a eu en même temps soin de nous procurer du

Conseil Municipal les tapis nécessaires. Grâce à M. le bailli nous pouvons maintenant sans empêchement remplir nos devoirs religieux. Nous désirons donc de tout cœur que le Gouvernement Central ne nous prive jamais d'administrateurs aussi justes et aussi impartiaux.

Nous vous prions, M. le rédacteur, de vouloir bien donner place, dans votre respectable journal, à la présente lettre de remercîments.

Agréez, &c.
(Suivent vingt signatures et cachets.)

Kazanlik, le $\frac{5}{17}$ *Août*, 1879.

No. 157.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 210.)
Philippopoli, August 30, 1879.

My Lord,

THE course which the recent proceedings of the Commission have taken render it necessary that I should submit to your Lordship, in a confidential form, the views and motives of my colleagues so far as I have been able to ascertain or judge them.

It is not necessary that I should enter upon an explanation of the policy pursued by Prince Tzeretelew, the Russian Commissioner, who, notwithstanding the probable desire of his Government to consolidate the peace of Europe by co-operating in the literal execution of the Treaty of Berlin, may naturally be credited with a desire to maintain in this province the power and influence of his country by weakening, as much as possible, the local authority of the Sultan, and by promoting the ambitious and selfish views of the Bulgarian party.

The apparent absence of certain moral and intellectual qualities in the Governor-General, and the seeds of disaffection and mistrust sown by the Russian authorities before the surrender of the administration of Eastern Roumelia, have hitherto rendered comparatively easy the accomplishment of such a desire on the part of the Russian Commissioner.

But the prosecution of that policy has brought about so many departures from the spirit, if not the letter, of the Organic Statute, that all my remaining colleagues have been filled with an increasing alarm and disappointment at the unexpected result of their labours in the preparation of a law devised for the pacification, contentment, and prosperity of the three principal races inhabiting this province. Even the Italian Commissioner was, until within a recent period, imbued with similar feelings, produced by the activity in some respects, and the supineness in others, of the Governor-General and the Administration over which he presides.

M. de Kallay, the Austrian Commissioner, has been more especially prominent in expressing indignation at the proceedings of the Governor-General, and in using a language of despair in respect to the possibility of remedying the state of affairs, of which he considered himself to be a helpless spectator.

He attributed that state of affairs to the appointment of Aleko Pasha to the post of Governor-General, to the failure of the negotiations for a mixed occupation, and to the subsequent unpreparedness or unwillingness of the Powers most sincerely interested in the maintenance of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin to put an end to the misgovernment of Aleko Pasha by authorizing the occupation of this province by Turkish or other troops.

The French Commissioners have, for some time past, been likewise labouring under similar feelings of despair and helplessness, aggravated to some extent by the unsuccess of their candidate for the chief military command in Eastern Roumelia, and by the failure of their efforts to obtain the consent of other Powers to render the decisions of the Commission obligatory on the Governor-General.

They have maintained, with M. de Kallay, that the entire Organic Statute has been vitiated, and its principal object sacrificed, by the non-appointment of a European Governor-General, supported, for a certain period, by a mixed military force. In their opinion, the balance between the three contending races could only have been held by a European Governor, unconnected with those races, and responsible to the Great Powers, as much as to the Porte, for his faithful and judicious application of the Statute.

The German Commissioner, whose altered attitude in respect to his Russian

colleague formed the subject of my despatch No. 131 of the 1st August, now shares entirely the views of the Austrian and French Commissioners, both as regards the probable results of the present state of affairs in Eastern Roumelia and the causes by which they have been produced. Moreover, the French, as well as the German and Italian Commissioners, frequently declare in unofficial conversation that they are only distantly interested in the solution of the Eastern question.

While participating in the disappointment manifested by the Commissioners whom I have mentioned, the Ottoman Delegates attribute unsparingly the blame of the injustice with which the Turks and Greeks are treated by the Bulgarians, and of the small respect which the latter manifest for the sovereignty of the Sultan, to the conduct of Aleko Pasha, which, in their opinion, amounts to treason. They would naturally prefer an occupation by Turkish rather than by foreign troops, and their inability to check the Governor-General by diplomatic or forcible means, necessarily places them in a position of humiliation, intensified by the insult which, as reported in my despatch No. 88 of the 19th July, has caused a complete interruption in the intercourse between the Turkish Delegates and Aleko Pasha.

Owing to the latter circumstance, they are no longer able to redress, by representations to the Governor-General, the grievances of the Mussulmans who daily appeal to them for aid and protection, and who are thus forced to seek advice and assistance of the British Consul-General.

M. Vernoni, who, as I have already stated, had, up to a recent period, identified himself with the majority of his colleagues in a strong denunciation of the character and acts of the Governor-General and entire local administration, has separated himself from them, since the majority of the Commission decided that the local posts and telegraphs should be placed under the supreme control of the Porte. He had maintained that, as the author of the particular Articles in the Organic Statute which relate to those services, no person was better qualified than himself to interpret their meaning, and he even carried his resentment at the non-acceptance of his interpretation of those Articles to the extent of accusing his colleagues, in private intercourse, of voting against their consciences, a reflection which, on one occasion, brought down upon him the indignation, expressed in no measured terms, of M. de Braunschweig.

From language which the Italian Commissioner has used to me on the same subject, I am inclined to think that M. Vernoni believes, or has been induced by Prince Tzeretelew to imagine, that the resolutions adopted by a majority of the Commission in the matter of the posts and telegraphs indicate a policy of restoring in this province the power of the Sultan beyond the limits laid down by the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute, and of bringing about such a state of things in Eastern Roumelia as would necessitate its occupation by Turkish troops.

It is more than probable that M. Vernoni was actuated by the same belief when he attempted, at the last meeting of the Commission, to prevent Baron de Ring from carrying a motion which would give the Porte control over a customs line on the Balkans.

In any case, whether M. Vernoni has recently been influenced by personal feelings of resentment, by his own appreciation of the political motives of his colleagues, or whether he is acting under new instructions from his Government, he has ostensibly separated himself from the Commissioners with whom he had previously voted, and has allied himself with Prince Tzeretelew, who would otherwise have remained entirely unsupported in the pursuit of a policy which even M. Vernoni had previously deprecated as subversive of the work of the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia.

At the same time, the above sketch of the views and motives of my colleagues would not be complete if I failed to mention an eager desire on their part to bring to a close their long, and, from their point of view, useless residence in the town of Philippopoli. In the case of M. de Kallay, this desire has long been the principal subject of his conversation, and, while it is far from my intention to doubt the sincerity of his conviction as to the inutility of attempting to arrest the course of Aleko Pasha by the continued presence and activity of the Commission, his departure may possibly have been hastened both by domestic considerations and the prospect of appointment to a high post in his own country.

My own position, amidst the vexation and despondence of my colleagues, has naturally been a difficult one.

While recognizing, as your Lordship will have perceived from my despatches, the unsatisfactory condition of the province under the administration of Aleko Pasha, I have never shared in the discouragement of my colleagues (Prince Tzeretelew excepted),

but have endeavoured, on the contrary, to induce them to watch and record all such acts and shortcomings of the local Government as will constitute a sufficient and unanswerable impeachment of its capacity or good faith, with a view to possible action, at a fitting opportunity, on the part of the Governments which we represent. It has also been my belief that the activity of the Commission in this direction would operate to a certain extent as a check on the proclivities of the Pan-Bulgarian party; and I have at the present moment no doubt that, although the Governor-General has taken no official notice of the communications made to him by the Commission, yet both his Excellency and his adviser, the Russian Consul-General, will view with pleasure the departure of a Commission which shows a disposition to criticize, with significant unanimity, the manner in which the Organic Statute is being applied in Eastern Roumelia.

The only drawback to the course which I have lately pursued under the above circumstances, namely, that of stimulating the flagging energies of my colleagues, is that I have necessarily made myself more conspicuous than the others in exposing cases in which the Organic Statute has not been observed by the Governor-General, to the detriment of my momentary popularity amongst the advanced Bulgarian patriots, and perhaps at the risk of my motives being misinterpreted by my Russian colleague, notwithstanding the socially cordial relations which I continue to maintain with him as well as with all the other Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 158.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 213.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, August 31, 1879.*

HAVING found on passing the railway station this morning that a staff of policemen had been sent to search a convoy of Turkish refugees who had just arrived, and that a search had been made under similar circumstances yesterday, I thought it my duty, in the interests of humanity, to send to your Lordship a telegram, *en clair*, recording those facts.

According to promises which the Governor-General had given me on two occasions, his Excellency had at last, on the 29th instant, issued written orders to the Prefect of Police to cease the searching of refugees, and the Prefect had himself informed me on that day that he was in possession of those orders.

The "National Committee" had, however, probably interfered to prevent their execution; but I have some hope that my telegram to your Lordship, *en clair*, will have the desired effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 159.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 190.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August 20, 1879.*

CONSIDERABLE apprehension is felt at Bucharest as to what the next few weeks may bring; it is quite clear to every one that the Chambers, when they meet, will have to come to some decision on the Jewish question, and the only existing difference of opinion refers to the nature of the solution which is to be given to that most important constitutional problem.

The Government are pledged this time to introduce a law on the subject, but such a law must, if it is to answer the purpose, not only correspond with the wishes and demands of five foreign Powers (Russia and Turkey are considered as having no interest in the matter), but requires to be approved by majorities consisting of two-thirds of the members of the Senate and of the other Chamber.

Many members of these bodies appear to have committed themselves to their electors not to vote in a particular sense on this very question, and amongst these it

is said that there are many of the strongest supporters of M. Bratiano, and who are prepared to follow his lead on every other question but this very critical one.

Others again, and these constitute the regular opposition, are acting from party motives, and are aiming chiefly to upset the present Administration, and are quite regardless of the consequences which may follow to the Prince and country from unsatisfactory relations with the Great Powers.

A few amongst these again, belonging to several of the old families of Boyards, and long dissatisfied with some of the institutions of their country, and with the influence assigned by them to certain turbulent elements of modern society, which they call democratic, are obstructing every solution of the Jewish question, from no other motive except their desire to bring about a change of the Constitution, even at the risk of straining, even more than it can bear, the modern fabric of a society hardly emerging from comparative darkness.

It is therefore not at all improbable that, from a variety of causes, the unpopularity of Jewish emancipation being only one of them, we may witness shortly a new Ministerial crisis, and that a Government with a large majority in both Chambers, and possessing the full confidence of their Sovereign, may have to resign office merely because they find themselves unable to satisfy, not the majority only, but two-thirds of the Deputies and Senators, that what the Powers require has to be complied with and incorporated in the legislation of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 160.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 200.) *Bucharest, August* 30, 1879.
My Lord,

A GREAT many proposals have been submitted to the Powers within the last few months for the solution of the Jewish question in Roumania, and during the visit of M. Stourdza, the Finance Minister, to Berlin and to Kissingen the negotiations on the subject appear to have made satisfactory progress, on the basis of admitting at once to full political and civil rights certain categories of Jews.

It has been asserted here, with some authority, that not only the German Government, but also M. Waddington, were disposed to accept the principle of categories, and gave their adhesion to some suggestions as to these, made by M. Stourdza.

M. Boerescо, on entering the office of Foreign Minister, started on a tour to the principal capitals for the purpose of inducing the different Cabinets to admit the substitution of nominal lists of Jews to whom rights of nationality are to be conferred at once, in lieu of categories recognizing these very rights.

As I understand that M. Boerescо has had the honour of a personal interview with your Lordship on this very subject, it would appear hardly necessary for me to allude to it, unless from the effect which the final determinations of the Powers may have on the decision of the Roumanian Ministers, and on the ultimate deliberations of their Legislative Assemblies.

Having had some conversation with M. Stourdza, he assured me confidentially that the two last categories (6 and 7), enumerated in the memorandum forwarded to your Lordship by Sir John Walsham, relating to Jews who were qualified, by holding property in towns or by payment of taxes, to be admitted to vote in the second and third electoral colleges, were never accepted by him as part of his scheme.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 161.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 201.) *Bucharest, September* 1, 1879.
My Lord,

WITH reference to the programme for the solution of the Jewish question, taking special categories as a basis, and including a qualification depending on taxation or on

urban property, the objection made to these last two categories by public men here rests on the results to which it would lead in many of the towns of Moldavia, where persons of the Jewish creed constitute one-half of the population.

Some data on this subject accompanied my despatch No. 105 of the 28th March of this year to your Lordship, and it appears from statistical returns that, out of 100 births in the districts there referred to, 47½ were those of Jewish children.

It is asserted that the admission of so many persons of that creed at Jassy and those other boroughs to the franchise would inevitably lead to the return to the Roumanian Chambers of members linked together by the tie of a community of creed and race, who, though not numerous, would hold in comparatively small Assemblies a position somewhat similar, but in reality much more prejudicial, to that occupied by the Home Rule faction in the House of Commons. And there is evidence that the feeling against any proposal likely to modify the electoral registration in Moldavia in this sense is so intense that the objections of extending the categories so as to include the qualifications under sections 6 and 7 of the memorandum appear insurmountable.

This has become still more apparent since two of the leading Bucharest journals, the "Romania Libera" and the "Binele Public," have printed the programme, inclusive of these two categories, so as to irritate and prejudice the public mind against the Ministerial scheme.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 162.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 203.) *Bucharest, September* 1, 1879.
My Lord,

AS the Chambers are to meet to-morrow, this Government is expected to produce some scheme as the result of M. Boerescо's negotiations with foreign Powers.

The personal friends of that Minister represent his efforts as having been successful in his delicate mission, and more or less inspired correspondents of foreign journals are disseminating sanguine comments on the way in which foreign Cabinets have been influenced by M. Boerescо's arguments.

The Opposition press at Bucharest is trying, on the other hand, to misrepresent the demands of the Powers by exciting public opinion against their acceptance, and, as this state of uncertainty is being prolonged, it is very much to be feared that the great confusion existing here on this question may go on increasing, and that difficulty of securing a sufficient number of votes for some practical solution will augment instead of diminishing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 163.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 204.) *Bucharest, September* 2, 1879.
My Lord,

IT is probable that M. Boerescо is in reality less satisfied with the result of his official visit to Paris than his friends wish us to believe.

He is reported to have started for the Italian capital, and it has been hinted that, as the Cabinet there has shown on several occasions a favourable disposition to gain a step in advance of the other Powers by accelerating the recognition of Roumania, he is sanguine to be able to induce Italy to do so now that Russian influence at that Court will be enlisted in his favour, which M. Boerescо's friends presume will be the case after the explanations he has given to M. de Giers during his recent visit to St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 164.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 205.)
Bucharest, September 2, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Roumanian Chambers met again on this day, but that, owing to M. Boeresco's continued absence, no business of any importance will be brought forward till that Minister's return.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 165.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 206.)
Bucharest, September 3, 1879.

My Lord,

AS far as one can gather anything of the intentions of the various fractions of the Opposition in the Roumanian Chambers, it would appear that these will coalesce for the purpose of rejecting the Ministerial proposals on the Jewish question, in the hope of thus upsetting the present Administration and replacing them in office. As some of the leaders of this factions coalition are known to be acceptable persons at St. Petersburgh, they hope to see a Russian Minister's return follow their advent to power; and that Italy will not resist much longer the accrediting of an Envoy at this Court.

In this way they imagine that a Ministry supported by the Boyard party, and appealing to the narrow patriotic prejudices of the masses, might successfully assume a bolder attitude towards the Western Powers on the Jewish question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 166.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 13.)
Sivas, Anatolia, August 20, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of letters which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to matters connected with the Vilayet of Sivas, and a conflict between Circassians and villagers in the Vilayet of Konieh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

Inclosure 1 in No. 166.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, Anatolia, August 8, 1879.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to address a telegram to your Excellency on the 28th July, requesting that copies of orders recently issued by the Turkish Minister of Justice, relating to certain changes in the Law Courts of the vilayets, might be forwarded to me.

It is important that the officers who have recently received Consular appointments in Anatolia should be kept informed of orders emanating from Constantinople which affect the system of government hitherto existing in the vilayets.

During the last few months important changes have been made of which I have no authentic information: the Courts have been freed from the control of the Vali;

the mode of election to the Councils has been altered; additional Judges and officers, Mufettish (Inspector) and Mudaioumoum (Public Prosecutor), who are to have representatives in the sandjaks and cazas, have been appointed; Court fees have been introduced; a special force of zaptiehs (police) is to be organized for the service of the Courts, &c.

I understand that the orders or laws regulating these changes are printed at Constantinople, but they are never promulgated in the vilayet, and the people have some reason to complain of the state of ignorance in which they are kept, especially with reference to the new system of election which I am told is to be introduced.

I need not point out to your Excellency how undesirable it is that I and the Vice-Consuls in Anatolia should have to obtain information of this class from the officials of the vilayet, with such colouring as our informants may see fit to give to it; and I trust that some means may be found of conveying early intimation to us of orders or instructions issued by the Porte, which relate to the administration of justice in the vilayets and the present mode of local government.

Though it is too early to pass an opinion on the new arrangements, I would beg to draw your Excellency's attention to the marked increase to the powers of the Cadis. The chief Cadi of a vilayet, who is also President of the Court of Appeal, in giving his decisions, often leans towards the ruling of the Sheri rather than towards that of the Nizam Law. In the sandjaks and cazas, the Cadis are not unfrequently men of slight education, having a certain acquaintance with the Sheri, but little with the Nizam Law; these men naturally give their decisions in accordance with the Religious Law. The Valis, Mutessarifs, and Kaimakams used, in many instances, to interfere when decisions were given in accordance with the Sheri but contrary to the Nizam Law; they have now no such power, the Cadis being entirely independent, and it is uncertain whether the Mufettishes have the power and the will to exercise the necessary supervision. The working of the new arrangements will have to be carefully watched in the interests of the Christian subjects of the Porte, who are now unable to procure the intervention of the Vali or Kaimakam in the case of unjust decisions, and are left to the mercies of Courts which have been for years notoriously corrupt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

Inclosure 2 in No. 166.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, Anatolia, August 8, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 2nd instant, relating to a conflict between some Circassians and the villagers of Nerschehir, in the Vilayet of Konieh, I have now the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, a copy of the telegram which I received from Captain Stewart, 11th Hussars, one of Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls in Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

Inclosure 3 in No. 166.

Telegram received from Captain Stewart, 11th Hussars, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul in Anatolia.

Konieh, July 30, 1879.

CONFLICT between Circassians and inhabitants village Moslem Nerschehir, four villagers wounded; local excitement; demand Circassian expulsion, otherwise threaten them extinction; Government helpless; no troops.

(Received at Sivas, August 1, 1879.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 166.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, Anatolia, August 8, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I recently received a telegram, congratulating me upon my arrival at Sivas, from Abedin Bey, who signs himself Reform Commissioner for the Vilayets of Diarbekir, Kharput, and Sivas.

I was not previously aware that a Reform Commissioner had been appointed for Sivas, and, as Abedin Bey proposes visiting the vilayet this winter, I should be glad if your Excellency would furnish me with some information respecting the extent of his powers and the nature of the instructions which have been supplied to him by the Porte. I would also venture to submit that the Porte be requested to grant me facilities for watching the proceedings of the Commission whilst employed in the Sivas Vilayet.

I have no information regarding the composition of the Reform Commission at Diarbekir, but I would suggest to your Excellency the expediency of urging the Porte to give a representative character to the Sivas Commission by adding to it a certain number of persons representing local interests. The selection of the additional members might be left to the Vali and the Reform Commissioner, care being taken that the interests of the various religious communities are properly represented, and that no person in Government employ, or at present serving on any Medjliss in the vilayet, is on any account selected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

Inclosure 5 in No. 166.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, Anatolia, August 16, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram of this day's date, relative to a Protestant of Dendil, under sentence of imprisonment with chains for murder, who is lying in the Sivas prison in a dying state, I have now the honour to forward to your Excellency a statement of the case, which is well known in the Sivas Sandjak as one of great injustice.

I am informed that the man would probably have been allowed to leave the prison, on bail, long ago had he not unfortunately incurred the displeasure of a Moslem of this town, Mehemet Ali, who has acquired complete control over the Courts of Justice in the vilayet.

I have brought the case to the notice of the newly-appointed Mudaioumoum, who has promised to look into it and have the man removed to hospital.

The whole affair is an outrage on humanity and justice, and I trust your Excellency will consider it deserving of being brought to the notice of the Minister of Justice at Constantinople. If an order could be obtained for a new trial, and the release of the prisoner, on bail, pending its issue, the effect produced here would be very good. It would do something towards removing the despondent feeling of the people, who look in vain for justice from the Courts, and would show the clique now in power that there is a limit to their oppression.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

Inclosure 6 in No. 166.

The Case of Kayunge Krekore, a Protestant of Dendil, in the Sivas Sandjak.

BETWEEN two and three years ago, during the period of disturbance which preceded the Turco-Russian war, a detachment of soldiers attacked the village of Dendil, and robbed and ill-treated the villagers. One of the latter, a Protestant,

Kayunge Krekore, who had been severely beaten, drew a knife in self-defence and killed a soldier; he was at once seized and thrown into the Sivas prison, where he remained for twelve months without trial. The Rev. Mr. Perry, American missionary at Sivas, and other friends of the prisoner, frequently urged that he should be brought to trial, and his witnesses, thirty-three villagers, heard in his defence, but without effect.

Last year, however, the man was suddenly brought to trial before the Sivas "Temiz Hukuk" Court, and condemned to fifteen years' imprisonment in chains on the evidence of three witnesses. No notice of the trial was given to Mr. Perry, or to the prisoner's other friends, and none of the numerous witnesses for the defence were called or allowed to appear. The case was sent on to the Appeal Court of Sivas, "Istanaf" or "Divan-i-Temiz," where the sentence was confirmed, but the unjustness and the illegal character of the trial were so apparent that the Christian members of the Court of Appeal refused to sign the sentence. The case was afterwards sent on to Constantinople, and the papers connected with it forwarded to the Protestant Vakil, Hakob; thus the matter rests at present.

Meantime the prisoner is undergoing sentence in the Sivas gaol; he is suffering from consumption and other complications, and Dr. Thom, of the Mardin Mission, who has examined him, says that he may die at any moment, and cannot live many weeks.

The authorities have several times been asked to let the prisoner out on bail, but they have always refused to do so, owing, it is said, to the vindictive feeling of an influential member of the Appeal Court.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Consul-General.

Inclosure 7 in No. 166.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Sivas, Anatolia, August 19, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the substance of a telegram addressed to your Excellency on the 17th instant, with reference to the death of Sureya Pasha, Vali of Sivas.

During the last few months Sureya Pasha has, I understand, been unable to attend to his duties, excepting so far as they consisted in attaching his seal to papers sent to his house, and since my arrival at Sivas, on the 24th July, he has been seen by no one but the members of his family.

His Excellency appears to have been a well-intentioned man, anxious to govern justly, but he does not seem to have had much strength of character, and was completely foiled in his efforts to grasp the reins of government.

When Sureya Pasha came to Sivas he found the affairs of the vilayet in the hands of a "ring" of unprincipled men, who acknowledged as their leader a certain Mehemet Ali, a man of no reputation, and of but slight education, who, a few years ago, was raised from the position of a bazaar gambler to affluence and power by Izzet Pasha, then Vali of Sivas.

Sureya Pasha attempted to get the power into his own hands, but failed to do so; his authority was defied, and even his written orders disobeyed; after some months the late Vali gave up the struggle as hopeless, and his recent fatal illness is attributed by his friends to the worry and annoyance attending his false position in the vilayet.

Mehemet Ali, himself a member of the Istanaf (Appeal Court), has succeeded in acquiring a commanding influence in all the Courts; in the Idaré, Council of Administration, the Cadi, Defterdar, and Mektoubji are looked upon, to use the language of the country, as "his men," having, it is said, been concerned with him in some not very creditable transactions connected with the allotment of the Divriki tithes last year. In the Istanaf and Temiz Hukuk Courts his wish is almost law, and he has succeeded in having a renegade Christian, once his favourite bath boy, appointed Beladiyé Reis, head of the Town Council.

Mehemet Ali's influence is due partly to natural shrewdness and cunning, partly to bribery and a system of terrorism which he exercises over the people through the Circassians, with whom he is closely connected by marriage. The power which he has thus acquired is used always for evil, never for good; his brother-in-law, a

notorious robber undergoing sentence of imprisonment, walks about the streets of Sivas without interference from the police; his house is the resort of the lawless spirits of the vilayet; in the Courts he is ever ready to protect those whose crimes deserve to be punished, whilst those who happen to displease him have but too good reason to dread his anger.

It would be difficult to describe to your Excellency the fear and dislike with which Mehemet Ali is regarded by Moslem and Christian alike, or the manner in which, when his name is mentioned, furtive glances are cast around to see that no one is within ear-shot.

The state of affairs has become so bad that men despair of obtaining justice from the Courts, and submit to robbery and ill-treatment rather than incur the expense of bringing actions which would have no result. There have been no elections in the vilayet for more than seven years, and a hopeless feeling has arisen with regard to the introduction of reforms, which has had a most depressing effect on the people.

One obvious remedy for these evils is the appointment of an energetic, determined Vali, able and willing to introduce reforms, and control the Circassians and other lawless spirits of the vilayet, and who would at the same time hold fresh elections and break up the "ring" of men who, for seven long years, have abused the power intrusted to them.

I would also beg to draw your Excellency's attention to the refugee question in the Sivas vilayet as being likely to give rise to serious complications if not energetically dealt with by the Porte. The emigrants from the Kars and Batoum districts are arriving in large numbers, fully armed, and as they are a turbulent people, disturbances are expected to arise.

The Refugee Commissioner, Tevfik Bey, informs me that he has just been recalled, and that his duties are to be carried out in future by the Local Government, which at present means by Mehemet Ali and his friends.

Tevfik Bey, though guarded in what he said, gave me to understand that he had received little assistance from the Mutessarifs, Kaïmakams, and officials of the vilayet generally, and that he anticipated serious difficulties would arise with regard to the settlement of the refugees. Complaints respecting the refugees have already been brought to my notice, but I have not at present details sufficiently authentic to lay before your Excellency.

I trust that your Excellency may be able to induce the Porte to appoint, as Vali of Sivas, a man who will take the government of the vilayet in hand in earnest, and who will give to all classes of the people that security to life and property which they so much need.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

Inclosure 8 in No. 166.

Substance of Telegram forwarded August 17, 1879.

THE Vali of Sivas died to-day; affairs are in much confusion, and need a strong hand; they are in the hands of local people, and for seven years there have been no elections. It is requested that the Government might be urged to appoint a Vali speedily who would introduce reforms and keep the Circassians and other lawless people in check.

No. 167.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 26. Political.)
Erzeroum, August 15, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose (in original) a letter I have this day received from Diarbekir, from Mr. Acting Honorary Vice-Consul Boyajian, giving some interesting details on the subject of the recent *émeute* in Diarbekir, in which it appears some twenty individuals were wounded, and also giving further information as to the progress made by the Imperial Commissioners of Reforms.

Whilst writing this despatch I have received a telegram from Mr. Boyajian (dated the 14th instant) informing me that a second batch of "notorious Kurdish Chiefs," twenty-three in number, had just been sent into exile.

This makes a total of forty-six of the principal Chiefs who have been sent into exile by Abedin Bey.

I have some misgivings lest this wholesale deportation of Chiefs from the Diarbekir Vilayet may cause such feelings of alarm amongst the more powerful and more inaccessible Chiefs of the Van and Mosul Vilayets as to drive them into open revolt in order that they may escape a similar fate.

A general revolt in Kurdistan at the present moment might perhaps cause the disruption of the Turkish Empire, which already seems to be tottering on its foundations.

Mr. Boyajian alludes to the probability of the estates of the exiled Beys being confiscated to Government. Although, in the interests of the empty Ottoman treasury, such a proposition might be highly desirable, and although, morally speaking, the exiled Beys deserve little sympathy, yet it should be borne in mind that the years of oppression and misrule which have led to their downfall is in great measure due to the inefficiency and corruption of the Ottoman officials. I think the Porte should be counselled to think seriously before sanctioning measures of wholesale deportation and confiscation.

Referring to the details of the Armenian riot, and considering them in connection with the recent *émeute* at Erzeroum and what I learn from other quarters, I think that there can be no doubt that the Armenians, at all events in the large centres where numbers give confidence, are displaying a spirit of independence which utterly astonishes all those who have known them long. They appear to have altogether changed their nature since the late war. Unfortunately the ruling tendency of the movement appears to consist in opposition to the established authority of the Government, a spirit which I always do my best to discourage, for although I lose no opportunity of exposing in my despatches the weakness, inefficiency, and corruption of the Local Governments, yet matters will not be improved by the general anarchy that will inevitably ensue if the Armenians generally take it into their heads to be rebellious. In the country districts, where the Armenians are generally in a great minority, it may possibly lead to a general massacre of their co-religionists.

Mr. Boyajian alludes to the prominent part taken in the movement at Diarbekir by my late dragoman (now, *faute de mieux*, dragoman to the Russian Consul). He is one of the modern advanced Liberal party amongst the Armenians, and a strong advocate of autonomy. He was always very friendly with Bishop Philippos, and I imagine that his action in the matter is probably quite independent of the Russian Consul.

In my despatch No. 25, Political, of the 8th August I stated that I had sent a telegraphic message through the Acting Vice-Consul to Abedin Bey, the First Imperial Commissary, congratulating him on the result of his labours anent the Kurdish Aghas, and expressed hope that he would act with equal energy against corrupt officials. I had the satisfaction of receiving yesterday from his Excellency the following telegraphic reply:—

"M. Boyajian m'a communiqué votre télégramme me félicitant. Vous en remercie; je n'ai fait que mon devoir. Je me propose visiter chaque caza séparément pour extirper les abus à leur source. Regrette infiniment votre absence qui me prive des précieux conseils d'une personne aussi éclairé et de haute distinction que la vôtre; ne trouve assez d'éloges à décerner à M. Boyajian pour zèle qu'il déploie."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major,*
Consul for Kurdistan.

Inclosure in No. 167.

Vice-Consul Boyajian to Major Trotter.

Dear Major Trotter, *Diarbekir, July* 31, 1879.

THIS is the sixth letter that I have written to you, but I am sorry to say that I have not heard of your having received any of them.

On the 25th instant I sent you a despatch* informing you of the disturbances

* Never received.

which took place in the town on the dismissal of the Armenian Bishop Phillipos, I am going now to give you a detailed account of the affair.

Some five weeks ago a clergyman and a layman, delegates of the Armenian Patriarch at Constantinople, arrived here to inquire into the affairs of the Armenians generally, and that of the Phillipos particularly. On arriving here they found the Bishop in hot water with the Government, on bad terms with the Mahommedans, and in disagreement with the Council of his community. In vain they tried to persuade him to amend his ways; apprehending that his conduct might cause ultimately a disturbance between the Mahommedans and Christians, they advised the Patriarch to remove him from this town; about a fortnight ago the order of his dismissal arrived. As soon as he received it he shut himself in his room; by his attitude and direct and indirect influence he began to incite the people to oppose the order of the Patriarch; the bell of the church was rung, and a large gathering of roughs came together at the church-yard, and were shouting that they would not let their Bishop go, and would revenge themselves on the delegates; the Government, being informed of the case, had stationed a few zaptiehs at the gate of the church in the other part of the town, where the delegates were living; some of the roughs, early on the same morning, had already made an attack on the delegates, but the zaptiehs seized some and scattered the rest. On hearing this a large multitude, numbering 500 to 600 of the mob, rushed to the other church, clubs and missiles (even sword and gun were seen with one of them) in hand, to attack the delegates and rescue their comrades. On the Government hearing this, and knowing that the zaptiehs on the spot were not sufficient to cope with the mob, they hastened to send all the available zaptiehs and two companies of regulars, headed by Mukhtar and Said Pashas; before arriving these forces there the mob broke into the delegates' room and attacked and thrashed them most severely; just at the same time this mixed force arrived, and it was just in time to save the lives of the delegates; they rescued and brought them to Eski Sarâ. In this affray, I hear, about twenty persons were wounded on both sides; I have seen some of these wounded, but am not sure of the exact number; the roughs amongst the Mahommedans hearing these movements thought that the Christians were preparing themselves to rise against them; they also began to arm themselves, and a grave consequence might have followed if the Government had not taken strong and proper measures to appease and persuade them that the disturbance was merely amongst the Christians. Their Exarch, the Vali, and the Commissioner, Abeddin Bey, jointly invited a general Council to propose some means to prevent the repetition of the events of the morning. As Phillipos was dismissed from his function by his own Patriarch he had nothing more to do in Diarbekir, and as his prolonged stay might create a fresh agitation they all thought that it would be desirable for him to leave at once the town; to this measure he opposed, but the Government sent him away with some zaptiehs as far as Kharpoot.

Finding Phillipos was gone, the mob locked the churches and schools, saying unless the Bishop comes back and their arrested comrades are released they will not open them; thirteen days these edifices have been locked; at last the better and wiser portion of the community came forward and opened the churches; to-day the church was open again, they had divine service, and everything was quiet.

In all this affair there was an unseen hand moving and encouraging the mob to resist, even promising them to bring Phillipos back if they were steadfast in their demand. Your former Dragoman, who is engaged by the Russian Consul now, was openly taking great part in the affair; we do not know how far the Russian Consul is acquainted with his movements in this affair. It was only the day before yesterday that news arrived from Kharpoot that Phillipos left that town for Constantinople; now they are beginning to despair of his coming back. Last week there was a telegram from Constantinople, from which we could clearly see that his return is possible, hence I sent you a despatch telling you that his coming back would create a fresh trouble.

His Excellency Abeddin Bey is working very hard; I hope he will be able to ameliorate in some degree the condition of the people; I am well persuaded that he is a very honest and well-intentioned person. I am still attending almost every day his committees; the other day, in the Committee of Reform, a measure was decided with regard to the gatherings of the tithes; this measure is something like the old one, but some new regulations were introduced to protect the poor farmer from the oppressions of Beys, Government officers, and Multazims. It was proposed by me to transfer the tithes, by taking the average of the revenue of five years, into fixed land taxes, but it has not been accepted by the majority. The present regulation, though

not altogether a reformed one, is yet much better than the old régime. It was also decided that two Municipal Councils be formed in the town, one will be presided over by a Christian. The other day, when I had a private interview with his Excellency Abeddin Bey, he informed me that he had received authority from the Sublime Porte to exile all the Kurdish Chiefs, with their families, to a distant part of the country; in doing so the Government will, I believe, confiscate their property, and sell, and allow them a small salary for their maintenance. He keeps this secret, because there are some more Kurdish Chiefs who have not arrived here yet; when they come he will at once execute this order.

Aga Isor Oglo, of Shurnak, arrived two days ago, and was at once put into prison. The Commissioner published and promised to give 10,000 piastres, good money, to him who seizes or kills the famous Hajo of Midiat; beside him all the Agas of Midiat are arrested. It has been arranged at the Reform Committee to station soldiers (from one company to a regiment, according to the importance of the locality) in the places where disturbances of the Kurds are constantly apprehended; for their location barracks must be built, that they may not give trouble and embarrassment to the people; thirteen such places have been selected, in five of these there are already barracks.

Of the thieves we were examining five have already been condemned to fifteen years' penal servitude, and the others will follow, thanks to the sense of justice of Abeddin Bey, or else they would have a very light punishment, or none at all.

Abeddin Bey is going to appoint three Christian Assistant Mutessarifs, two or three Kaïmakams, one Public Prosecutor.

I have sent you before the list of Vice-Presidents of the Courts of Justice and the Procureurs-Généraux already appointed; one of them is in prison now for defraud in gathering the sheep taxes. I hope the others will follow.

The Mardin Mutessarif arrived three days ago; his examination will soon commence; I will let you know the result.

Kazim Pasha received orders to leave Diarbekir; some say he is going to Konia to settle the emigrants, but others say he is going to Constantinople. He will leave on Monday next.

I received your despatch on the 22nd instant, informing me that the authorities have given the Vizirial letter sanctioning my appointment. Three days after the Vali sent for me, and told me that he also received a telegram from you to the same effect.

The Reform Commission in the Vilayet of Aleppo is, I hear, altogether a failure. How are your Commissioners getting on? Will this new Cabinet have any effect on this affair for good or evil?

The weather is oppressively hot. The thermometer in the shade is about 100°, but thank God there is no illness in the town.

Mrs. Boyajian joins in kind regards.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

No. 168.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 28. Political.)

My Lord, *Erzeroum, August* 16, 1879.

I HAVE at last succeeded in obtaining from the Imperial Commissioners a copy of the written project of the Mahommedan members of the Council of Reforms, which was presented to the Commissioners on the 21st July last. I inclose, for your Lordship's information, a translation of the document made by my Secretary, Mr. Cuming.

The document in question, as well as the Armenian project, of which I forwarded a French translation with my despatch of the 2nd August to Her Majesty's Ambassador, have both been submitted by the Imperial Commissioners to the Sublime Porte for consideration, with certain recommendations that I hope to treat of in a future despatch.

In my despatch No. 25, Political, of the 8th August, I had to leave blank the entries in a certain tabular statement, the details for which had been promised to me,

but had not been supplied to me on the departure of the mail. These details as now supplied are as follows:—

Population of Erzeroum Vilayet according to certain Armenian authorities:—Christians, 195,500; Turks, Circassians, &c., 185,000; Kurds (settled and nomad), 112,500; Yezidis, 3,000. (This includes males and females.)

I beg that these numbers may be inserted in the proper place in the despatch No. 25, Political.

Since I last wrote the Commissioners have been principally engaged in pursuing their investigations with regard to affairs in Geghi, but, as their Excellencies appear to shirk all responsibility, I do not see that much good is likely to result from their labours.

The questions involved in Geghi affairs may be divided under five heads:—

1. Charges against the Aghas and Beys of robbing the Government in the matter of tithes, &c.

2. Charges against the Aghas and Beys of robbing both Government and the people in the matter of evading conscription.

3. Charges against the Aghas and Beys of robbing both Government and the people in regard to the supplies furnished for the army during the late war.

4. The question of the rights of proprietorship of the village lands.

5. The question of ill-treatment of the Rayahs by the Beys and Aghas.

The Commissioners have decided not to interfere in matters connected with the first three heads, which, they say, regard specially the Vali Pasha, and should be treated and decided by him.

With regard to the fourth item, the Commissioners have made preliminary investigations, which have convinced them that there is much to be said against the claims of proprietorship of the local Chiefs. The Commissioners have applied three times (by post and telegraph) to the Porte for instructions as to whether these territorial cases shall be tried by the local Court of Appeal or by the religious Tribunal (Mekhmeh-i-Sheriyeh), and, as no answer has hitherto been received, all territorial cases hang fire. The Commissioners have, I believe, also asked that a specially qualified Judge be sent from Constantinople to conduct the trials.

With regard to the fifth question, the preliminary investigation has shown that the local Beys and Aghas have been guilty of gross acts of oppression and wrong. The persons concerned will be committed for trial to the local Courts, to which the Commission intends to nominate a Procureur-Général, one of their own employés.

Practically, then, it will be seen that the Commission is doing next to nothing in the way of the reform which is so urgently needed, and it is evident to me that this state of things will continue for as long as the Central Government at Constantinople refuses to accord energetic support to the Commissioners. At present the Sublime Porte contents itself with entirely abstaining from answering any of the numerous questions which have been referred to them. The gendarmerie question is at a deadlock, for, as I reported some weeks ago, the Porte having refused to sanction the project of the Commission, demanded a modification of it on the basis of no increase of expenditure. This, the Commissioners replied, was impossible, and there the matter rests.

This financial question, it appears to me, will, if not taken in hand shortly, bring the Ottoman Government to an untimely end. The army in this province is four years in arrears of pay. Several weeks ago a telegram was received by the Vali ordering him to reduce the already insufficient number of zaptiehs, in order to effect a pecuniary saving. Within the last few days two fresh orders have been received from Constantinople, the first to the effect that the members of all the local judicial Tribunals (*i.e.*, the Judges) are, for the present, to receive no salary, the recently-appointed and comparatively highly-paid Presidents of Courts and Procurators-General being alone exempted from the effects of the order.

The second order, which, equally with the first, was addressed to the Vali Pasha, was that, in order to reduce expenditure, the salaries of all Government employés were to be reduced one-third.

Comment is superfluous.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
Consul for Kurdistan

Inclosure in No. 168.

Mahommedan Project of Reform for the Vilayet of Erzeroum.

(Translation.)

To the Imperial Commissioners for Reforms for the Vilayets of Erzeroum and Van.

Introduction.

THE state of affairs in this country teaches us that our history is divided into two portions. During the first portion we had no intercourse with Europeans, but in the second we have mixed with them. During the first portion we were occupied in extending our Empire, in making our name famous, and in studying the sciences. By the power of our swords we soon reached the frontiers of India and China, as may be learned from the numerous volumes in our libraries in the capital. In the second portion our conquests ceased, and we saw it was necessary to apply ourselves to legislation, literature, and the study of administration; but, owing to natural causes, and by the will of God, we only partially succeeded, and we failed to keep up with the age. Internally and externally, causes of preoccupation arose; the Government was occupied in seeing to the safety of the Empire, in watching the changing ideas of the people, and in aiming at their instruction and advancement. Although these three things were very necessary, the Government only partly succeeded in carrying them out, and things occurred which are unheard of in the history of other nations. For three years, without any external aid, our nation of 15,000,000 has struggled with one of 90,000,000; and now, at a time when affairs are still unsettled, our illustrious Sovereign has sent you here to inquire into the grievances and wants of the people. For this we are inexpressibly grateful. We are impatiently anxious that the prosperity of our country shall equal that of the most advanced European nation, and pray to God that such may soon be the case.

It is of course impossible that we can suddenly make the same progress that Europe has only made gradually in the space of 300 years, but, beginning from to-day, by God's will, we hope slowly to overtake it. To attain this, we will act in accordance with your instructions.

The Soghanly Mountains having been ceded to Russia, our country is in danger; and we have, moreover, no material for building purposes and for making agricultural implements. Without some remedy being found for these, we cannot hope to equal London in progress. It is necessary that these things should be seen to as soon as possible.

Public Works.

In the first place, it is necessary that forests be planted on the mountains about Erzeroum, in which the Government should aid the vilayet; and, for the benefit of future generations, an agricultural school should be established, for which teachers should be brought from Europe.

But as it will be a long time before timber from the proposed forests can be felled, and the supply of wood from the small existing forests being limited, the Government should see to the opening of the coal mines at Nariman and Devi Boyoun.

Although the mines will supply fuel until the proposed forests be ready (say in forty or fifty years), Erzeroum will be solely dependent on Soghanly for timber for building purposes. Such being the case, the European nations who are anxious for the introduction of reforms into Turkey should humanely consider this subject.

One of the things necessary for the progress of the country is an improved means of transport. This should be seen to at once. The simplest and easiest plan would be to make a good broad road like those of Europe from Trebizond to the frontier, or, better still, to build a single line of railway to pass through the town of Erzeroum, with branch roads connecting the cazas. For this purpose the item of public works in the Budget should be increased; and for keeping the roads, bridges, &c., in order, a paid Commission should be appointed in this vilayet. This Commission would of course make a special study of what is necessary to be done.

Our exports are at present not like those of Europe; they consist of wool (produced by the sheep possessed by the Kurds), mohair, gums, and such like things; but, with improved means of transport, these exports would be greatly increased. It is important that our exports should be increased, and the Government should give its attention and aid for this purpose.

Public Instruction.

Having stated what public works are necessary, it is hardly requisite that we should point out that education is required for the advancement of commerce. The times render it of importance that education should be seen to as speedily as public works. We are aware that our Sovereign is anxious that his people should be educated, and that he has expended large sums with that object in view; but we also know that, in these troubled times, he cannot think of the education for which we are so anxious. We should remember this, but at the same time we should exert ourselves for its accomplishment.

The people being equally impoverished with the Government, they cannot afford to pay for education; but money for this purpose might be taken from the revenues of those Vakoof properties which, instead of being used for the purposes for which they were intended, at present only benefit a few individuals. A Commission of Public Instruction should be appointed in the vilayet, whose duty it would be to see to the establishment of colleges and schools, and to the general management of the same. If the revenues from the said Vakoofs be not sufficient, the Sultan should be applied to to grant a portion of the revenues of the other Vakoofs for the purpose of education.

Taxes.

We have no complaint to make against the income tax, sheep tax, tithes, customs duty, property tax, or other taxes, but consider them just. We would, however, suggest that the tithes be farmed, as they were formerly, for it is a loss both to the Government and the people when the former collect them. Also the income and property taxes should not be collected by zaptiehs, as hitherto, but some more efficient means should be devised for their collection.

Police.

The Vilayet of Erzeroum has an area of 55,000,000 donoums, which gives 110 donoums to each inhabitant. From this it is clear that a large police force is necessary; and, however large it may be, it will still be difficult to keep lawless individuals in order in such a large area. Besides the proposed gendarmerie, troops should be stationed in different parts of the vilayet to insure order and quiet, and to keep evil-disposed persons from without from doing evil to the inhabitants.

The Imperial Troops.

The organization of the Imperial troops, who are the protectors of the country, should be in accordance with the necessities of the time. As we have several times seen, the children of the country on being called out have proved themselves inefficient, and thus caused disasters. The troops being drawn from one community only are not so strong, and have not that amount of patriotism they would possess were they drawn from all the communities of the country and mixed together.

Justice.

A deal of trouble has been taken to organize the civil government of the country. It is therefore desirable that when an official has proved himself to be honest and efficient he should not be dismissed. According to the Constitutional laws given by His Majesty the Sultan to his people, it is ordained that corrupt and dishonest officials are to be degraded and punished, while upright and honest officials are to be rewarded and promoted.

To carry this order out is one of the most necessary reforms. To change the state of things that has existed for centuries past, and to introduce thorough civilization, it is necessary that the people should interchange ideas. With this object in view, previously to the outbreak of the late war, a Provincial Council, composed of delegates from all the sandjaks of the vilayet, met in Erzeroum to discuss the affairs of the province.

We understand that it is contemplated to form this Council anew, and beg that this may speedily be done, as it will effect great good, and thus render the people grateful.

Conclusion.

The above is, in our humble opinion, in accordance with the wants of the country at the present time, and with the civilization we long for, and we trust our proposal

will meet with His Majesty the Sultan's approval. If in the future we think of other projects which will be beneficial to the country we will submit them to your Excellencies.

We have, &c.
(Signed by 28 Mussulmans of Erzeroum.)

Erzeroum, 9 Temuz, 1295 (July 21, 1879.)

No. 169.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 67.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August 31, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose Protocols 26 and 27 of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, and erratum sheet of Protocol No. 22, &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 169.

Protocole No. 26.—Séance tenue à Thérapia à l'Hôtel d'Angleterre, le 11 Août, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp,
M. le Capitaine Podstawski.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha,
Simon Effendi (Papasian),
Le Commandant Hassan Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure et demie.
Le Protocole No. 25 est lu et adopté.
Le Président constate que la Commission a réglé à l'unanimité tous les points se référant à l'objet principal de sa mission, la fixation de la frontière des Balkans entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie. Avant de songer à rédiger l'acte final de ses travaux, il lui reste à donner une solution aux deux questions encore pendantes, de la frontière septentrionale de la Bulgarie et de la route militaire par le sud du Sandjak de Sophia; on ne saurait d'ailleurs prévoir le sort réservé à un acte final, qui embrasse nécessairement l'ensemble des travaux de la Commission, le Commissaire de Russie ayant déclaré qu'il ne signerait aucun instrument visant l'Acte Spécial de la Commission en date du 17 Décembre, 1878, fixant la nouvelle frontière Roumano-Bulgare. On ne peut d'un autre côté laisser plus longtemps en suspens tous les intérêts qui se rattachent à la fixation de la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie. Aussi le Président a-t-il cru devoir aller au devant du désir de ses collègues en faisant réunir et

préparer tous les éléments d'un Acte Spécial, dont il soumet la Minute à la Commission.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow déclare adhérer complétement aux vues du Président: il désirerait toutefois, avant de donner sa signature, pouvoir comparer le texte avec les plans qui doivent lui être annexés. Il remarque que la feuille de Chipka, en raison de l'échelle de $\frac{1}{42000}$ adoptée, ne reproduit pas nettement toutes les inflexions du tracé de la frontière; il croit qu'il serait utile de la compléter par un plan au $\frac{1}{21000}$; peut-être même conviendrait-il d'opérer ainsi pour les autres passes. La carte au $\frac{1}{42000}$ ne peut d'ailleurs rendre les services qu'il en attendait, quand dans une précédente séance il soutenait la supériorité de la carte sur le texte. Revenant sur cette appréciation et déclarant se préoccuper surtout du travail des Commissions de bornage, il croit qu'il vaut mieux supprimer du texte toutes les données un peu vagues, et substituer partout à la diction "crête militaire" celle "une ligne tracée à une distance donnée de la ligne de partage."

Le Président fait observer que le texte relatif au tracé de la frontière a été adopté à l'unanimité, et ne pourrait dorénavant subir que des modifications de détail. Une carte à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{21000}$ n'offrirait pas aux Commissions de Bornage toutes les indications de détail incluses dans le texte; il faudrait, pour obtenir un tel résultat, recourir à des cartes au $\frac{1}{10000}$, et revenir par conséquent à une idée émise il y a quatre mois par le Général Hamley, et alors repoussée par le Commissaire de Russie comme devant trop ralentir la marche des travaux de la Commission.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow insiste pour l'insertion dans l'instrument diplomatique d'une clause portant que la frontière dans les environs de la Passe de Chipka sera tracée sur un plan à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{21000}$ dont deux copies, signées par les Commissaires, seront remises aux Représentants de la Bulgarie et de la Turquie dans la Commission de Bornage. Il offre à cet effet deux reproductions photographiques de la Minute possédée par le Secrétariat.

Cette proposition est agréée.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow demande ensuite à revoir le texte, afin de vérifier et de compléter les distances qui y sont inscrites.

La Commission décide que le Commissaire de Russie s'entendra à ce sujet avec le Secrétariat, et que si les modifications apportées au texte sont de nature à ne pouvoir soulever aucune difficulté, le Secrétariat fera préparer l'acte et ses annexes, pour être signés le 14 Août.

M. le Colonel de Ripp met sous les yeux de la Commission la carte du Bas-Danube à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{126000}$ dressée en 1875 par le Capitaine Autrichien Pillepich pour les besoins de la navigation.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow, tout en reconnaissant la valeur de ce document pour la fixation générale du thalweg, ne croit pas qu'il permette de résoudre toutes les difficultés relatives à la propriété des îles. Il faudrait à son sens avoir des plans plus détaillés. Il avait jusqu'ici espéré recevoir dans un avenir prochain une carte du Danube dressée par les topographes Russes, mais les dernières communications du Général Jarnefelt lui font entrevoir de longs retards; aussi ne pouvant assigner une date précise à la remise de ces levés, et ne voulant pas ralentir la marche des travaux de la Commission, bien qu'il continue à juger une carte détaillée du Danube nécessaire aux opérations de la Commission de Bornage, il serait maintenant disposé à se rallier à la majorité de la Commission, si celle-ci était d'avis de laisser la détermination du thalweg à la Commission de Bornage qui aurait recours à toutes les cartes existantes et notamment à la carte topographique Russe.

M. le Colonel de Ripp maintient au contraire sa manière de voir sur la nécessité qui s'impose à la Commission de fixer elle-même le thalweg. La Commission a été instituée pour procéder à la délimitation des frontières de la Bulgarie, y compris la frontière septentrionale; elle doit donner à son œuvre la forme la plus précise possible, afin de supprimer toute source de conflit entre la Principauté et les États voisins. C'est à ce mobile qu'elle obéissait, lorsque naguère, à propos de la frontière des Balkans, elle se décidait à annexer une carte à son travail, même dans les parties où ladite frontière suit une ligne de partage. Une telle ligne prête cependant à de bien moindres incertitudes qu'un thalweg. On n'a jamais cru qu'on pût se contenter, pour fixer la frontière d'un État bordé par un grand fleuve, d'indiquer d'une façon générale le thalweg sans définir sa situation par rapport aux îles, îlots, et atterrissements. Ainsi après la paix d'Andrinople le thalweg du Danube fut tracé sur une carte. Si la Commission ne procède pas aujourd'hui comme sa devancière, la Commission de Délimitation de 1830, elle fera un travail incomplet, ou se déchargera sur d'autres d'une partie de sa tâche.

M. le Général Hamley fait remarquer les différences existant entre une ligne de partage et un thalweg; tandis que celui-ci est mobile, celle-là est fixe; elle peut être jalonnée sur le terrain par des marques de bornage; elle peut en certains points posséder des propriétés tactiques.

Le Président, pour permettre à la Commission de considérer les faces multiples de la question, lui fait donner lecture par un des Secrétaires, de divers passages de Traités et d'actes diplomatiques relatifs à la délimitation de frontières formées par le thalweg du Rhin et celui du Pô: Traités de Paris du 30 Mai, 1814, et 20 Novembre, 1815, Acte de la Commission de Limite, conclu à Strasbourg le 30 Janvier, 1827, entre la France et le Grand Duché de Bade; Convention de Carlsruhe, entre les mêmes, du 5 Avril, 1840; Acte Final de Délimitation de la Frontière Austro-Sarde de Peschiera, le 16 Juin, 1860.

Prenant ensuite la parole, et se fondant sur les susdits documents, *M. le Commissaire de France* constate, en premier lieu, que, dans la plupart des actes, les deux États directement intéressés, la France et le Grand Duché de Bade, ont été seuls appelés à débattre leur frontière qui leur avait été assignée par une décision de l'Europe. Il observe, en second lieu, qu'on a toujours considéré la question d'une frontière fluviale comme double, question de souveraineté, question de propriété; l'une dépendant exclusivement de la situation du thalweg, l'autre plus complexe tenant compte de l'origine des îles et de leurs premiers possesseurs. Les difficultés qui se rattachent à celle-là, et qui se présentent surtout dans les points où le thalweg se bifurque, peuvent être résolues, après une reconnaissance des lieux, par des experts hydrographiques jurés; mais pour trancher les contestations de propriété entre des tiers, il faut examiner tous les titres, et procéder à des enquêtes; c'est l'œuvre d'un Tribunal arbitral. La tâche que la Commission assumerait sur elle, en s'engageant dans le règlement des droits de propriété, ne serait pas moins hérissée de difficultés que celle confiée par les Traités de 1815 aux Commissaires de France et du Grand Duché de Bade, qui consacrèrent à leur travail des années entières. Le Traité de Berlin n'a pas modifié la frontière de la Roumanie, le thalweg du Danube doit être fixé en prenant pour base des propriétés respectives des deux États, l'*uti possidetis* avant la guerre, ou mieux le travail de la Commission qui fut chargée en 1830 de déterminer conformément au Traité de Paix d'Andrinople la frontière des Principautés de Valachie et de Moldavie; la Commission ne saurait d'ailleurs pénétrer plus avant dans le détail de la question, sans avoir entre les mains toutes les pièces des procès multiples qui s'y rattachent. Comment pourrait-elle autrement formuler un jugement équitable?

M. le Colonel Orero estime que la Commission ne saurait toucher à la frontière de la Roumanie, sans avoir au préalable entendu les Représentants de cette Principauté. Il pense d'ailleurs qu'on doit, pour ne pas s'engager dans un dédale des difficultés inombrables, arrêter que les îles jusqu'ici Roumaines continueront d'appartenir à la Roumanie, et que les îles anciennement Turques seront, au contraire, dévolues à la Bulgarie, et s'en remettre pour la détermination du thalweg à une Commission Mixte, formée des Représentants des deux États.

M. le Général Hamley ne juge pas que la Commission ait qualité pour se livrer à l'examen de titres de propriété.

M. le Colonel de Ripp croit que personne ne pourrait produire de tels actes pour les îles.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow ajoute que la possession de certaines d'entr'elles a donné lieu à des contestations qui sont encore pendantes.

Après cette discussion, *M. le Colonel de Ripp* formule la proposition suivante:—

"Au nord la frontière de la Bulgarie suit le thalweg du Danube depuis l'ancienne frontière de la Serbie jusqu'à la frontière de la Province Roumaine de la Dobroudja, en laissant à la Roumanie les îles dont les noms suivent: . . . . . et à la Bulgarie les îles ci-après nommées: . . . . . Un croquis ci-annexé, établi d'après les documents les plus récents, indique le thalweg qui forme la limite de souveraineté des deux Principautés."

Le Commissaire de France propose, de son côté, que, le thalweg formant la limite de souveraineté entre les deux Principautés, la propriété des îles soit réglée en prenant pour base les indications du Traité d'Andrinople.

M. le Général Hamley demande à son tour que la Commission se prononce sur le texte suivant:—

"Au nord la frontière suit le thalweg du Danube entre l'ancienne frontière de Serbie et la frontière de la Province Roumaine de la Dobroudja, tel qu'il sera reconnu, et déterminé par une première entente entre les deux États intéressés, et successivement dans des vérifications périodiques."

La proposition du Colonel de Ripp mise aux voix est repoussée par 4 voix contre 3—celles des Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, et de Russie.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne motive son vote en disant que ses instructions lui ont prescrit de donner le thalweg du Danube pour frontière nord à la Bulgarie; il croit que cette ligne diffère actuellement de celle figurée sur la carte de 1830, et il jugerait par conséquent utile que la Commission procédât à la fixation d'une frontière qui pourrait s'écarter sensiblement de l'ancienne.

Le Commissaire de France, et, après lui, *les Commissaires de Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Turquie*, fondent leur vote contraire sur l'impossibilité pour la Commission de trancher toutes les questions techniques et juridiques de détail que soulève la fixation d'une frontière fluviale; ils croient qu'il suffit d'établir les principes.

Le Commissaire de France retire ensuite sa proposition, se réservant de la reproduire après l'adoption de la proposition plus large du Commissaire de Grande Bretagne.

Cette dernière proposition est enfin adoptée par 5 voix contre 2 abstentions—celles des Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie, celui-ci se ralliant ensuite à la majorité.

Avant de poursuivre la discussion plusieurs membres demandent à connaître les stipulations du Traité d'Andrinople concernant la propriété des îles du Danube.

Le Président invite, en conséquence, les Commissaires de Russie et de Turquie à rechercher le texte de ce Traité, et il ajourne la suite du débat à une séance ultérieure, la prochaine séance fixée au 14 Août devant être exclusivement consacrée à la signature de l'acte réglant la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale.

M. le Colonel Orero prie ensuite le Commissaire Ottoman de faire connaître la route d'étapes par le sud du Sandjak de Sophia, qu'il se propose de demander à la Commission, en se fondant sur le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha ne juge pas utile de se prononcer sur ce point avant que la Commission ait traité la question de compétence.

La séance est levée à 5 heures.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) P. PODSTAWSKI.
G. MARMIER.
F. VICINO PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 169.

Protocole No. 27.—Séance tenue à Thérapia à l'Hôtel d'Angleterre, le 14 Août, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp,
M. le Capitaine Podstawski.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha,
Simon Effendi (Papasian),
Le Commandant Hassan Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Président fait donner lecture du document ci-après, déjà communiqué par lui à la Commission à la précédente séance, en indiquant les corrections qui y ont été depuis apportées sur le désir du Commissaire de Russie:—

Acte fixant la Frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale.

Le Congrès de Berlin a stipulé dans l'Article II du Traité conclu le 13 Juillet, 1878, que les frontières de la nouvelle Principauté de Bulgarie seraient fixées sur les lieux par une Commission Européenne, où les Puissances Signataires seraient représentées.

Leurs Majestés l'Empereur d'Allemagne, l'Empereur d'Autriche-Hongrie, M. le Président de la République Française, leurs Majestés la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et de l'Irlande, Impératrice des Indes, le Roi d'Italie, l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, et le Sultan, Empereur des Ottomans, ont à cet effet nommé pour leurs Commissaires, savoir:—

Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne: le Sieur Carl Comte von Wedel, Major d'Etat-Major, Attaché Militaire à l'Ambassade d'Allemagne à Vienne.
Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Autriche-Hongrie: le Sieur Charles Chrétien Henry Baron de Ripp, Colonel d'Etat-Major.
M. le Président de la République Française: le Sieur Jules Victor Lemoyne, Chef d'Escadron d'Etat-Major.
Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume Unis de la Grande Bretagne et de l'Irlande, Impératrice des Indes: le Sieur Edward Bruce Hamley, Général-Major.
Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie: le Sieur Balthasar Alexandre Orero, Lieutenant-Colonel d'Etat-Major.
Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies: le Sieur André Bogolubow, Colonel d'Etat-Major, Aide-de-Camp de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie.
Sa Majesté le Sultan, Empereur des Ottomans: son Excellence Mehemmed Tahir Pacha, Général de Brigade d'Etat-Major.

Lesquels, munis de leurs pouvoirs et instructions, se sont réunis en Commission à Constantinople.

Se sont mis d'accord sur les principes à appliquer dans le tracé de la frontière et

particulièrement sur la stipulation de l'Article II du Traité, leur enjoignant de prendre en considération la nécessité, pour Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, de pouvoir défendre les frontières du Balkan de la Roumélie Orientale,

Et après la reconnaissance des localités pouvant donner lieu à discussion,

Ont fixé la frontière entre la Principauté de Bulgarie et la Province de Roumélie Orientale dans les conditions ci-après :

Article Ier.—Au sud, la frontière de Bulgarie remonte depuis son embouchure dans la Mer Noire, le thalweg du Tchiveté-Déré, laissant à la Bulgarie les villages de Hodjakioi, Aïvadjik, Djéferli, et Goulitza (Sudzuluk) et à la Roumélie Orientale ceux du Gések, Jenikioj et Karmandja.

De la tête de ce thalweg à 2,500 mètres sud-est de Belibe, elle descend, par un petit ravin orienté de l'est à l'ouest, dans le Dermen-Déré dont elle suit le cours jusqu'au coude, où ce ruisseau, coulant précédemment du sud-est au nord-oust, se redresse vers le nord. La frontière se prolonge ensuite par une suite de ravins et de cols orientés dans une direction générale du sud sud-est au nord nord-ouest, entre le Balaban-Déré et le Délédji-Déré, jusqu-au pied du Pilav-Tépé ; elle monte, toujours dans la même direction, sur le sommet de cette montagne, elle en suit la crête et redescend directement au Déli-Kamtchik, qu'elle coupe en un point situé à 2,850 mètres en amont et à l'ouest de Tchengi, à 1,825 mètres en aval et au nord-est de Hadji-Mahalé. Le village de Belibe et les ruines de Kemhalik restent ainsi à la Bulgarie, les villages de Tchovankioj, Kaïrak-Mahalé, et Kosik à la Roumélie Orientale.

De la rive gauche du Déli-Kamtchik, et par l'arête rocheuse qui aboutit au point indiqué précédemment, la frontière monte sur la crête du Kapi-Bair. Elle se prolonge alors sur la ligne de partage entre les eaux du Déli-Kamtchik et du Bouyouk-Kamtchik, laissant à la Bulgarie les villages de Aidos-Bredja, Kaïardi, Loponchna, Bektchi, et à la Roumélie Orientale ceux de Hadji-Mahalé, Tikenlik, Dokbankioj, Karavchilor, Dérékioj, et Aïvadjik. Elle suit ensuite le Karnabad-Balkan entre Baïram-Déré et Kérémetli, jusque près du chemin qui mène de Tchali-Kavak dans l'Ak-Déré à Kamtchi-Mahalé. La terrasse s'étendant jusqu'à 500 mètres au nord du col que traverse ce chemin, et qui porte le nom de passe de Dobral reste à la Roumélie Orientale ; puis la frontière rejoint, au nord d'une batterie abandonnée, la crête du Déhélitch-Balkan et se prolonge sur la ligne de partage des eaux par Tioula-Baïr, Monainar-Baïr et Tépékioch jusqu'à ce qu'elle rencontre la route de Verbitza à Sungurlar et Jousoufou. De là et sur un parcours d'environ 3 kilom., la frontière s'écarte de la ligne de partage pour suivre le bord oriental de la dite route, partout où cette route se développe sur le versant est d'une série de petits mamelons. Elle traverse la route à l'embranchement d'un sentier qui mène directement à une karaoula ruinée, sise à 1 kilom. au nord-ouest ouest, et court alors par la ligne de faîte dénommée Prisevica et Asap-Balkan sur la Carte Autrichienne.

A 2,600 mètres à l'est nord-est de la passe de Kotel, la ligne-frontière rencontre un petit plateau dont elle contourne sur le versant nord la crête extérieure, puis par la ligne de partage et par un coude à angle droit elle atteint à 500 mètres de ce coude la tête d'un ravin profond, où la route de Kotel à Osman-Bazar descend, en pente raide ; de là elle gagne le tournant voisin de la route, la traverse, en suit le bord occidental pendant 1 kilom., s'en détache à la tête d'un autre ravin escarpé, pour contourner le Koulé-Tépé, longe de nouveau le bord extérieur de la route jusqu'à l'ensellement du col, et après avoir suivi là crête militaire de façon à laisser successivement à la Roumélie les sommets des 3 hauteurs situées à l'ouest de la passe, reprend à 2½ kilom. de cette passe la ligne de faîte du Kazan-Balkan.

A 9 kilom. à l'ouest de la Passe de Kotel la frontière se confond, dans la chaîne principale des Balkans, avec la grande ligne de partage, généralement orientée de l'est à l'ouest, qui sépare les eaux des affluents du Danube au nord et celles qui, au sud, se rendent dans la Mer Noire par les sources de Déli-Kamtchik, et bientôt après dans la Mer Egée par les vallées de la Toundja, de la Strena (Giopsou-Déré), et de la Topolnitza. Elle ne s'en écarte sur le versant nord que dans les endroits désignés ci-après :—

Passe de Démir-Kapou.—Crête militaire depuis le point où la route escarpée montant de Stara Riéka (à la Bulgarie) atteint cette crête, jusqu'à 825 mètres à l'ouest du point où elle descend sur Slivno (à la Roumélie Orientale). Puis ligne de partage par Zoupantzi-Mesari, Biéla Krava, Tchoumourna (727).

Passe de Tvarditza.—Crête militaire marquée par un escarpement rocheux depuis le mamelon situé à 700 mètres à l'est du grand tournant (514) de la route, jusqu'au col situé à 1,500 mètres à l'ouest de ce tournant ; la frontière coupe la route à 160 mètres en avant et au-dessous du tournant.

Passe de Haïn-Boghaz.—A partir d'un mamelon sis à 1,300 mètres nord-est du col (321) et 1,600 mètres est de Porovtzi, ligne tracée à 120 mètres parallèlement à la crête du contrefort qui rattache à la ligne de partage le plateau dominant Botchkovtzi situé au nord, Biéjivtzi et Ivanovtzi à l'ouest, contournant ce plateau par sa crête militaire et courant de nouveau parallèlement à la ligne de faîte, en sens contraire et à la même distance moyenne de 120 mètres, jusqu'après le mamelon sis à 1,500 mètres à l'ouest de la passe. Puis grande ligne de partage par le point 445·3 et le sommet de Mrazietz.

Passe de Travna.—Crête militaire depuis un point situé à 375 mètres au sud-est du col marqué par le tournant le plus aigu de la route, jusqu'au col sis au sud-est des mines de charbon, de manière à laisser à la Roumélie Orientale la Gora Krestietz (480) au nord et les trois mamelons au sud du grand tournant de la route, avec un rayon de 150 mètres environ autour de ces divers sommets ; la frontière coupe ainsi la route à 350 mètres au nord-ouest du grand coude précité. Puis, grande ligne de partage par la Gora Bolgarka, Bidek, Tchetchoumek, Altovo-Padalo, Bouzloudja, Biéli Kladenitzi, Tirsova (Tirsiouvitz).

Passe de Chipka.—Crête militaire depuis un point situé à 300 mètres au sud de Démir-Tépé, pour donner à la Roumélie Orientale ce sommet, celui de Demievitz et la terrasse au-dessous du Mont Sveti-Nicolaï ; bord occidental de cette terrasse jusqu'à 20 mètres de la route ; ligne tracée à 20 mètres parallèlement au bord extérieur de cette route en laissant toutefois à la Bulgarie les deux cimetières Russes qui se trouvent dans le ravin à l'est ; arc de cercle de 40 mètres de rayon autour du sommet de Ouzoun-Kouch ; ligne revenant parallèlement à la route, à l'ouest et à 20 mètres du bord jusqu'à hauteur du Mont Chipka (Krouglaja-Batareja) ; crête militaire à une distance moyenne de 100 mètres au-dessous de la ligne de partage, laissant à la Roumélie Orientale les sommets de Bachenitza, Malich, et Lizaia, jusqu'à 600 mètres au nord de Lizaia Gora. Puis grande ligne de partage des eaux par le col de la Vetropolska-Poljana, les sommets de Kourita, de Malóboska-Poljana, Tchervena-Lókva, Develdjaskaja-Poljana, Biéli-Kladinietz, la Passe de Rozalita, la Gora Maragedik, le point trigonométrique 1,113, la Gora Jounrouktzal, la Gora Krivianiti (1,061), le Gladi-Dol et l'Ostra-Mogila entre lesquels passe le sentier conduisant du Czerni-Oseu à Karlovo, l'Amboritza (1,000), le point 811, près du Lac Sari-Gœl qui reste à la Roumélie Orientale, le Balkan Ventzete, les points 740, 739, 792, et le signal trigonométrique 774.

Passe de Trojan.—Crête militaire depuis le signal 774 jusqu'à un petit col situé à 1,150 mètres à l'ouest du point où le chemin franchit la ligne de faîte. Puis la grande ligne de partage par les points 749 et 755 du Midristi-Balkan, la Gora Kozia-Stienka, Selva, Sovrano-Stiéna, et le Démir-Kapou.

Passe de Ribaritza (Rabanica sur la Carte Autrichienne).—Crête militaire dominant la conque où s'élève le chemin du Biéli-Vid à Rachmanli, depuis Démir-Kapou et au-dessous du Jounrouk, jusqu'à 1,500 mètres à l'est du Vejen. Puis la grande ligne de partage par Vejen, Balvan, Pascal (954,2), jusqu'au septième mamelon à 1,750 mètres ouest de ce dernier sommet. (Ce point dénommé Djémina sur le versant sud, et Pascal sur le versant nord, correspond au point de rebroussement fixé par l'Article 11 du Traité de Berlin sous le nom de Kosica.)

A Kosica, la ligne-frontière quitte la crête de la chaîne principale du grand Balkan, descend vers le sud par le thalweg de la Gramotnika jusqu'à son confluent avec la Topolnitza, laissant à l'ouest le pic de Monastirski-Kamik, et les ruines du Monastère de Sveti-Elia, et passant entre les villages de Pirtop et Douchantzi, laissés l'un à la Bulgarie, l'autre à la Roumélie Orientale.

Du confluent de la Gramotnika et de la Topolnitza (ou Tuzla-Déré), elle suit de l'est à l'ouest vers Petricevo, le cours de cette dernière rivière, jusqu'à 2,050 mètres en amont de son confluent avec le Smolsko-Déré.

De là, la frontière se dirige du sud au nord, sur une longueur de 750 mètres, par un ravin affluent, pour tourner ensuite à angle droit de l'est à l'ouest dans un autre ravin jusqu'au petit col au nord de Kerbova ; elle gagne au nord le sommet de Mala-Mogila, tourne de nouveau à l'ouest, laisse le Goulema-Mogila à la Roumélie Orientale et descend au Mirkovo-Déré par le troisième ravin au nord et en amont du confluent du Mirkovo-Déré et du Smolsko-Déré ; elle suit le Mirkovo-Déré jusqu'au dit confluent, remonte ensuite le Smolsko-Déré jusqu'en un point, situé en face du second ravin affluent de gauche au-dessus de ce confluent et à 2,200 mètres en amont de celui du Smolsko-Déré avec la Topolnitza ; puis tournant vers le sud-ouest elle gagne en ligne droite le sommet du mamelon voisin de la Koliba-Bodiat.

La frontière suit alors vers l'ouest et le nord-ouest la ligne de partage des eaux

entre les ruisseaux du Smolsko-Déré et de la Kamenitza, jusqu'au sommet situé à 500 mètres au sud-ouest de la Sveta-Petka et à 1 kilom. au sud de Voyniak (460,1). En continuant par la ligne de faîte, elle gagne le sommet de Kamenitza-Mera, tourne au sud entre les eaux de la Kamenitza d'une part, de la Ravna et de la Soliska de l'autre, atteint le point 558 (Gora-Ikounita), qui correspond au point marqué 875 sur la Carte Autrichienne et spécifié dans l'Article II du Traité; passe par le point 544 et Raïeva-Glava, se prolonge parallèlement à la Kriva-Ricka, qui reste à la Bulgarie avec le hameau de Bogdanovitz (Bogdina sur la Carte Autrichienne) jusqu'au point 446, et va couper la route de Vakarel à Ichtiman à 520 mètres en aval du confluent de la Kriva-Ricka dans l'Ichtiman-Déré; ce point est marqué par les ruines de la première de deux karaoulas qui gardaient le débouché du bassin supérieur de la vallée, dans l'étranglement où se pressent la route, le ruisseau avec sa rive droite garnie d'un perré en maçonnerie et la tranchée du chemin de fer en construction; l'emplacement de la karaoula reste à la Roumélie Orientale.

Après avoir traversé perpendiculairement route, ruisseau et chemin de fer, la frontière suit sur la rive droite de l'Ichtiman-Déré la ligne de mamelons constituant la limite sud-est du bassin de la Babina-Ricka, passe à 800 mètres au nord de Chamchadinova, coupé à 1,800 mètres au nord d'Adjamza un ravin affluent de la vallée d'Hadjilar (Ricka-Bozalan) et court le long de la ligne de faîte la plus voisine et parallèle à cette vallée.

La frontière atteint ainsi le Sivri-Tépé (482), où elle tourne au sud pour suivre la ligne de partage entre les eaux de l'Isker et de la Maritza; elle traverse la route de Tchiarmourli à Ichtiman au col marqué 404, monte le long d'une croupe jusqu'à la crête du Kara-Baïr, atteint cette crête en un mamelon situé à 900 mètres à l'ouest de Gorni-Kalé, gagne sur la crête, dans la direction est-ouest, le mamelon suivant et en descend directement au col où prend naissance la Tcherna-Ricka. Courant toujours sur la même ligne de partage, elle remonte au sommet de Velina-Mogila, coupe le chemin secondaire de Novosélo à Gutzal, passe par le Gutzalski-Vrh, cotoye une karaoula ruinée qui gardait la route de Samakov à Banja et dont l'emplacement reste à la Roumélie Orientale, coupe quelques mètres plus bas la dite route, se dirige par la Priova-Ravnisti et la Vitana sur le col où nait le Siganska-Déré, traverse le massif de la Summatica en coupant le chemin direct de Samakov à Radwil et atteint les pentes du Rhodope au col très-étroit où deux petits affluents de la Maritza et de la Velica-Bistritza, la Slivnitza et la Loucovitza, courant en sens inverse semblent se confondre.

De ce col, par la croupe qui sépare les hautes eaux de la Maritza et de la Velica Bistritza et par un sommet désigné sous le nom de Teham-Kourou la frontière va rejoindre entre Sivri-Tach et Cadir-Tépé, la crête principale du Rhodope marquée sur la Carte Autrichienne comme la limite de l'ancien Sandjak de Sophia.

Art. 2. La ligne de démarcation entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale, de la Mer Noire jusque près du Cadir-Tépé, est rapportée, avec tous ses détails, sur un croquis au $\frac{1}{42000}$ dressé d'après les levés des topographes Russes et ci-annexé, qui servira comme document explicatif dans tous les cas où le texte pourrait soulever quelque doute.

Toutes les distances indiquées dans l'Article précédent sont mesurées sur le dit croquis en ligne droite et en projection horizontale. Par "crête militaire" on entend la ligne des points où la pente généralement assez douce à partir d'un sommet ou d'une ligne de faîte, s'accentue et devient plus rapide pour former le versant d'une vallée, d'une rivière, ou d'un ravin.

Art. 3. Aux termes du dernier alinéa de l'Article II du Traité de Berlin, le Gouvernement Ottoman ne pourra pas élever de fortifications sur le territoire de la Roumélie Orientale dans un rayon de 10 kilom. autour de Samakov.

L'arc de cercle qui limite à l'est la zône dans laquelle toute construction de fortification reste interdite à la Turquie, se détache de la frontière à 200 mètres au sud du sommet de Velina-Mogila, coupe la route de Banja à Samakov à 2,200 mètres nord-ouest de l'église de Gutzal, passe à 1,250 mètres à l'ouest de ce village, à la même distance à l'ouest de l'église de Radwil, court ensuite à peu près parallèlement à la Maritza sur une étendue de 5 à 6 kilom., et va rejoindre la frontière au Teham-Kourou.

Cette ligne est tracée sur le croquis annexée à la description de la frontière.

Art. 4. Pour satisfaire au vœu unanime exprimé par les Plénipotentiaires des sept Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, d'après un sentiment de respect pour la mémoire des hommes morts au champ d'honneur dans les ravins de Chipka, il ne sera apporté aucune entrave au libre passage des particuliers ou des processions se rendant dans un but pieux par la grande route aux deux grands cimetières, qui font partie de la Bulgarie conformément à l'Article 1 ci-dessus et où reposent les restes des soldats

Russes tués autour de la passe; les cimetières moins importants ainsi que les tombes isolées qui existent dans ces parages sur le territoire attribué à la Roumélie Orientale seront sous la protection du Gouvernement de cette province, qui les fera respecter et veillera à leur entretien.

Art. 5. Il appartiendra aux parties intéressées de prendre d'un commun accord telles mesures qu'elles croiront utiles pour établir des marques de bornage sur les diverses frontières, conformément au tracé arrêté par la Commission.

Pour faciliter ce travail dans les environs de Chipka la ligne-frontière dans le voisinage a été rapportée spécialement sur un plan au $\frac{1}{21000}$, établi en deux expéditions destinées aux Représentants de la Turquie et de la Bulgarie dans la Commission de Bornage.

Art. 6. Il appartiendra également aux parties intéressées de régler directement ou après entente réciproque, pour les maintenir ou les transformer par des compensations équivalentes, les droits de pacage ou d'usage dans les bois que pourraient avoir, par écrits, par possession, ou par prescription, certaines communes frontières sur des territoires attribués par le présent Acte à une Principauté ou province voisine.

Il sera d'ailleurs apporté dans les lois et Règlements de Douane à intervenir tous les tempéraments de nature à ménager les intérêts économiques des populations frontières.

Conformement aux stipulations précises du Traité de Berlin, les droits de propriété des particuliers sur des immeubles situés dans une autre Principauté ou province que celle de leur résidence, demeurent intacts.

Art. 7. Le présent acte contenant sept Articles, et établi, avec le croquis annexe indiqué aux Articles 2 et 3, en sept expéditions reconnues identiques, une pour chaque Puissance représentée dans la Commission de Délimitation, a été signé par tous les Commissaires, en vertu de leurs pouvoirs et instructions.

Il sera soumis immédiatement à l'approbation des Gouvernements de l'Allemagne, de l'Autriche-Hongrie, de la France, de la Grande Bretagne, de l'Italie, de la Russie, et de la Turquie, par leurs Commissaires respectifs, et porté ensuite à la connaissance des parties intéressées pour recevoir son exécution.

Fait à Thérapia, le Août, 1879.

A cet Acte est joint un croquis en dix-huit feuilles, à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{42000}$, de la ligne de démarcation entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale, de la Mer Noire jusque près du Cadir-Tépé.

Le Président invite la Commission à vouloir procéder à la signature de la Minute et des sept expéditions de l'Acte et du croquis annexé.

Chacun des Commissaires appose sa signature et son sceau sur ces documents. Ceux-ci reçoivent ensuite sur chaque page ou feuille le timbre du Secrétariat, puis sont réunis en cahiers au moyen d'un onglet maintenu par un ruban rouge, dont les bouts sont eux-mêmes fixés à l'onglet par une petite bande de papier gommé, portant l'indication "Minute" ou le "No. de l'Expédition." Le timbre du Secrétariat est enfin mis sur chaque bande de manière à déterminer une empreinte à cheval sur l'onglet et sur la première page du cahier.

Le Président remet ensuite à chacun des Commissaires l'exemplaire qui lui est destiné, puis il soumet à la Commission le plan à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{21000}$ de la ligne-frontière dans les environs de Chipka, dont il est parlé à l'Article 5 de l'Acte ci-dessus.

Après la signature de la minute et des deux expéditions de ce document, les Commissaires se séparent à 5 heures, et s'ajournent au 16 Août.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original:

(Signé) P. PODSTAWSKI.
G. MARMIER.
F. VICINO PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 169.

ERRATUM.

Protocole No. 22.

P. 10, ligne 27.—Au lieu de "le Commissaire de Turquie," lire "le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne.

P. 11.—Remplacer la dernière phrase de l'alinéa No. 2 par celle-ci: "Cette proposition mise aux voix fut repoussée, et une autre, donnant la crête militaire jusqu'aux deux sommets les plus voisins à droite et à gauche, fut adoptée à l'unanimité."

Croquis de la Frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale.

Feuille No.	1.—Au lieu de	"Chouvté Déré"	lire	"Chivté Déré."
" "	3. "	"Poulouv Tépé"	"	"Pilav Tépé."
" "	3. "	"Karaveliar"	"	"Karaveliler."
" "	4. "	"Teholio Kavak"	"	"Tchali Kavak."
" "	9.—Au mamelon situé à 1,000 mètres environ au nord de la Passe de Travna mettre le nom de "Mraziotz."			
" "	10.—Au lieu de	"Tchoroumek"	lire	"Tchetchoumek."
" "	11. "	"Malovoska Poliana"	"	"Maloboska Poliana."
" "	26. "	"G. Ikounitza"	"	"G. Ikounita.

No. 170.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 77.)

Constantinople, September 1, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 30th ultimo, transmitting Lord Dufferin's telegram of the 28th ultimo, reporting the collapse of the negotiations at St. Petersburgh, I have the honour to state that I have seen this day Nedjib Pasha, the chief Turkish Commissioner, and he still intends to abide by the position he took up at the conferences, viz., the assertion that the frontier never left the crest.

As Lord Dufferin very justly remarks, the signed sheet does not altogether support the Turkish line of argument, inasmuch as the line on the map leaves the crest before the parallel of Karaourgan is reached. But the Turks explain the discrepancy between the map and their statement as follows:—

They say that after tracing the frontier past Bardouz and Yenikeui it was necessary for the First Commission to select some point near Karaourgan upon which to direct the remainder of their frontier. It was perfectly well understood by all, including the Russian Commissioner, that they had not the right to fix any point definitively, but that its ultimate selection depended on the Second or Tripartite Commission. To complete their work they were for the moment induced to agree, as a provisional point, to the Russian point "Y," south-west of Karaourgan. In order to reach this provisional point they had to draw a tentative line of frontier, viz., that which figures on their signed map. This portion of the frontier when it leaves the crest is, however, no argument against them, being provisional, and subject to change according to the point ultimately to be chosen by the Tripartite Commission; so that, when speaking of the frontier immediately to the north of the parallel, bearing in mind its tentative character, they consider that, according to the spirit of their map and of the accompanying project of frontier (Inclosure in my No. 23), the line of frontier has never left the crest.

It is unfortunate that there is no record of this line being acknowledged as provisional in the project above alluded to, and, in the absence of documentary proof, as the Russians will of course deny it, the onus of proving the tentative character of the line will lie with the Turks. The chief argument in their favour, and it certainly is of some weight, is that the Russian Commissioner confirmed the provisional character of the line by his attitude and words when the statement to this effect was made by the President of the Commission. (See Protocol No. 1, printed copy, p. 2, line 37 *et seq.*)

But in my opinion there are other arguments in our favour of more importance, which the Russian Government objects to face, and finds it inconvenient to deal with from the impossibility of their refutation.

These arguments are in the Protocols. In these Protocols it is shown that the point "X" was indicated to me as the terminal point of the frontier traced by the First Commission, and that the Russian Commissioner did not raise any objection to it as such, until I had agreed to accept it. The point, on the other hand, which the Russians now seek to establish on the parallel, belongs to a trace directed upon the point "Y," which has been abandoned as inconsistent with the Treaty of Berlin.

But I fear that these arguments will not be given a fair hearing by the Russian Government. There seems to be no inclination on the part of the Russian authorities to examine the issues calmly. In lieu of dispassionate inquiry we find a withholding of documents and the avoidance of all argumentative discussion, accompanied by outbursts of impatience and a desire to substitute might for right.

In this particular instance of the point west of Karnourgan, I hear that the *amour-propre* of the Russian Commissioners at seeing their scheme for nullifying the defence of the Ziwin position about to fail has had much to do with rendering the negotiations at St. Petersburgh abortive. But I would submit, for your Lordship's serious consideration, that if this mode of dealing with disputed questions be persisted in, the object for which a Commission is appointed is defeated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 171.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 48.)

Constantinople, September 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 31st August directing me to use every effort to complete the work of delimitation of Eastern Roumelia with as little delay as possible, and to consider the maps to be of secondary importance not justifying material delay.

In my despatch No. 47 of the 25th August I had the honour to submit to your Lordship the opinions expressed by my colleagues on the subject of the maps.

Every effort has been made by me to expedite the work of the Commission, and I now reckon upon having in our possession by the 25th September an unbroken series of maps from the Black Sea to Mount Cadir Tepe, the point where the frontier of Eastern Roumelia joins that of Southern Bulgaria. This will allow the work of the Commission to be brought to a close about the middle of October, or at a date about one month later than that which I had originally calculated upon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major*,
93rd Highlanders.

No. 172.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 62. Political.)

Canea, Crete, August 31, 1879.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 61 of the 25th instant I had the honour to refer to the subject of the appointment to the post of the President of the Court of Appeal in Canea of M. Scaltsouni, who had been already selected for that post by Photiades Pasha, subject to the approval of the Porte.

For the first five months after the Vali's arrival here, he had left the choice of the individual who should occupy this important position to the authorities at Constantinople, but finding during all this time that no steps were being taken to find a suitable candidate, his Excellency, on his recent visit to the capital, sought and obtained the sanction of the Porte to find an eligible person to occupy it without delay. The Pasha's choice finally fell on M. Scaltsouni, of whose eminence as a lawyer I had occasion to speak in my last despatch, and his Excellency repeatedly urged the Ministry of Justice to confirm his nominee in his new position. More than a month

elapsing without any answer being returned, the Vali, who was concerned to see the judicial business of the whole vilayet suffer delay and inconvenience from the want of a responsible head, telegraphed a few days ago to M. Scaltsouni to take up his new office at once. A few hours after dispatching that telegram another was received from the Ministry of Justice refusing to confirm the appointment on account of M. Scaltsouni's Hellenic nationality. As that gentleman had already consented to become a naturalized Ottoman subject, his Excellency thought the objection put forward an inadequate one for rejecting services whose value had been tested in various public employments, and which were likely to be specially useful for putting in order the judicial administration in Crete. Impressed with these considerations, Photiades Pasha telegraphed to say that he could not at this late date revoke the appointment. From that time to this, now nearly a week, no answer has come from the Porte, and M. Scaltsouni is expected shortly to arrive to assume the duties of his post.

I have gone at some length into all the circumstances of this case, because I have reason to believe that if the Porte persists in its refusal to sanction the new appointment, the Vali has resolved to resign, and in that event I was anxious that your Lordship should be in a position to judge of the merits of a controversy which led to such a step.

I acquainted Sir Henry Layard by telegraph some days ago with the misunderstanding that had arisen between the Governor-General and the Porte, having previously in private letters kept his Excellency informed of the main circumstances connected with it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 173.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 21. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, September 1, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 18, Political, of the 19th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Austro-Turkish Commission is said to have entered the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar yesterday, the 31st ultimo, having been met at the frontier by a Turkish escort of twenty-five infantry soldiers and by, I am told, Osman Bey, the Mutessarif of Novi-Bazar. It is calculated that ten or twelve days must elapse before the Commission completes the necessary arrangements and returns to the frontier; and that, therefore, the Austrian troops will only enter the sandjak about the 15th instant. In the meantime troops are being daily sent forward to the frontier, and General Obadits started yesterday for Visegrad.

I have now reason to believe that my statement, that "neither Husni Pasha nor any of his Staff had accompanied the Commission," was incorrect, and that two Turkish officers were, in fact, sent by Husni Pasha with the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDW. B. FREEMAN.

No. 174.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 653.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, September 10, 1879.

AT meeting of Turkish and Greek Commissioners held to-day, former handed in a second counter-declaration, maintaining their views at considerable length, and repeating their offer to discuss "indications" in Protocol No. 13, but refusing to accept Protocol as obligatory.

Greek Commissioners seemed disposed to yield, and Safvet Pasha made declaration in the following terms in writing:—

"Ottoman Plenipotentiaries are pleased to see that their Greek colleagues are coming round to their views, and are disposed to negotiate on the indications contained in Protocol No. 13, in order to discuss, and, if necessary, modify them."

Greek Commissioners did not consider themselves authorized to accept this

declaration, but have undertaken to apply to their Government for instructions. I think it looks as if they will end by entering upon negotiations on the terms proposed by the Turkish Commissioners.

No day is fixed for next meeting.

No. 175.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 80. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Philippopoli, September 10, 1879.

THE French Commissioner has addressed a private letter to the Secretary-General calling attention to the deplorable state of the refugees in this town, and to the fact that the municipal authorities, far from facilitating their re-instalment, are occupied only with the means of compelling the refugees to leave, in order that the Bulgarians may appropriate their lands. He calls upon that officer to see condition of the refugees, and to send aide-de-camp as a matter of humanity, and in order to be able to recall local authorities to a sense of their duty. The Baron warns the Secretary-General that, sooner or later, Administration will be made responsible for scandalous neglect of their subordinates, and that the Powers will not always be satisfied with bold denials or optimist affirmations. Lastly, he writes, there is a measure of bad government which the Powers will not allow to be overstepped, and that latter name will strengthen his hands against certain persons who reckon improperly on forbearance or fatigue of Europe. It is evident that the treatment of the refugees is the result of a policy, on the part of the occult [?] Government, to exterminate Turkish element.

I asked Russian Commissioner to-day if he would assist in devising a plan for relief and redress. He answered he did not meddle with matters which did not concern him; that the refugees must certainly die of starvation; the Porte knew it, and had sent them for that purpose. He said there was no [? real measure] to recent complaints if money was distributed. Foreseeing this accusation, I have not given a single coin to any one with complaints. I shall not distribute any alms out of the refugee fund until your Lordship authorizes me, to avoid Russian and Bulgarian accusations.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 176.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11, 5·20 P.M.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, September 11, 1879, 4·20 P.M.

ON morning of the 10th the Austrian troops entered Plevlje, where a Turkish battalion was drawn up in line to salute them.

No. 177.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1164.)
Foreign Office, September 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 748 of the 21st ultimo, reporting the representations you had made to the Porte with reference to the murder of a gardener and his family in the employ of some English residents at Kadikeni, and in regard to the general insecurity of the lives and property of British subjects at that place.

Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your Excellency's proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 178.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Anderson.

(No. 15.)

Foreign Office, September 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 26 of the 18th ultimo, giving details of the proceedings of the Servian Boundary Commission in fixing the frontier-line in the neighbourhood of Prepolac.

It is satisfactory to learn that it has been found possible to settle this question in a manner equitable and acceptable to both the parties immediately concerned. The part which you have taken in the matter is fully approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 179.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Anderson.

(No. 16.)

Foreign Office, September 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 25 of the 18th ultimo, reporting that the new Servian frontier has now been completely marked by the Commission, and has been accepted by all the Commissioners.

Her Majesty's Government have received with much satisfaction the announcement of the successful termination of the labours of the Commission. I take this opportunity of expressing to you their entire approval of the course which you have pursued while employed upon this service. They are sensible that it is in a considerable degree owing to the judgment and tact which you have shown that the difficult questions with which the Commission has had to deal have been settled without the necessity of further discussion or reference, and that you and Lieutenant Ross have been largely instrumental in the proper performance of the surveying operations. I must request you to offer to that officer my best acknowledgments for his services.

I shall have much pleasure in forwarding a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 180.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Anderson.

(No. 17.)

Foreign Office, September 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 30 of the 2nd instant, reporting your arrival in London, and the arrangements made by you for winding up the work of the Servian Frontier Commission, and for closing the accounts.

Those arrangements have my entire approval.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 181.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 70.)

Buyukdéré, August 19, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the messenger who leaves on the above date will bring to you the Act of Delimitation of the frontier between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, as fixed by the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, and the Maps containing the trace of that frontier, as previously notified to you in my despatch No. 57.

The Act explains itself. The Maps, illustrative and explanatory of the Act, were traced from the Russian Maps, used by the Commission, entirely by the President, Commandant Lemoyne, an experienced draughtsman, and formerly employed on the Government survey of France. This tracing was then reproduced by Turkish military topographers, by the process of photo-lithography, and it is one of the examples of this reproduction which is forwarded to you.

It is to be noted that the trace of the frontier at one extremity, namely, on the mountain Cadir-Tépé, is not entirely complete, because no accurate map has hitherto existed of the frontier south of Summatica, and, for reasons with which you are already acquainted, it was not considered advisable to await the production of the map to be made of that portion by the Russian topographers. Either that part will remain described only in the Act (the trace not being essential, especially in the case of the distinctly marked watershed of a barren and uninhabited mountain crest, the description in words of which appears sufficient for all possible purposes), or, on the receipt of the work on which Major Ardagh's party is now engaged, a supplementary sheet representing this small portion can be prepared, and signed like the first.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure in No. 181.

Acte fixant la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale.

LE Congrès de Berlin a stipulé dans l'Article II du Traité conclu le $\frac{1}{13}$ Juillet, 1878, que les frontières de la nouvelle Principauté de Bulgarie seraient fixées sur les lieux par une Commission Européenne, où les Puissances Signataires seraient représentées.

Leurs Majestés l'Empereur d'Allemagne, l'Empereur d'Autriche-Hongrie, M. le Président de la République Française, Leurs Majestés la Reine du Royaume-Uni de la Grande Bretagne et de l'Irlande, Impératrice des Indes, le Roi d'Italie, l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, et le Sultan, Empereur des Ottomans, ont à cet effet nommé pour leurs Commissaires, savoir:

Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne, le Sieur Carl Comte Von Wedel, Major d'Etat-Major, Attaché Militaire à l'Ambassade d'Allemagne à Vienne;

Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Autriche-Hongrie, le Sieur Charles Chrétien Henry Baron de Ripp, Colonel d'Etat-Major;

M. le Président de la République Française, le Sieur Jules Victor Lemoyne, Chef d'Escadron d'Etat-Major;

Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume-Uni de la Grande Bretagne et de l'Irlande, Impératrice des Indes, le Sieur Edward Bruce Hamley, Général Major;

Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie, le Sieur Balthasar Alexandre Orero, Lieutenant-Colonel d'Etat Major;

Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, le Sieur André Bogolubow, Colonel d'Etat Major, Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie;

Sa Majesté le Sultan, Empereur des Ottomans, Son Excellence Méhemmed Tahir Pacha, Général de Brigade d'Etat-Major;

Lesquels, munis de leurs pouvoirs et instructions, se sont réunis en Commission à Constantinople,

Se sont mis d'accord sur les principes à appliquer dans le tracé de la frontière, et particulièrement sur la stipulation de l'Article II du Traité, leur enjoignant de prendre en considération la nécessité, pour Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, de pouvoir défendre les frontières du Balkan de la Roumélie Orientale,

Et après la reconnaissance des localités pouvant donner lieu à discussion,

Ont fixé la frontière entre la Principauté de Bulgarie et la Province de Roumélie Orientale dans les conditions ci-après:—

Article 1er. Au sud, la frontière de Bulgarie remonte depuis son embouchure dan la Mer Noire, le thalweg du Tchiyté-Déré, laissant à la Bulgarie les villages de Hodja kioi, Aivadjik, Djéferli, et Goulitza (Sudzuluk), et à la Roumélie Orientale ceux de Gések, Jenikioj, et Karnandja.

De la tête de ce thalweg à 2,500 mètres sud-est de Belibe, elle descend, par un petit ravin orienté de l'est à l'ouest, dans le Dermen-Déré dont elle suit le cours

jusqu'au coude, où se ruisseau, coulant précédemment du sud-est au nord-ouest, se redresse vers le nord. La frontière se prolonge ensuite par une suite de ravins et de cols orientés dans une direction générale du sud sud-est au nord nord-ouest, entre le Balaban-Déré et le Délédji-Déré, jusqu'au pied du Pilav-Tépé; elle monte, toujours dans la même direction, sur le sommet de cette montagne, elle en suit la crête et redescend directement au Déli-Kamtchik, qu'elle coupe en un point situé à 2,850 mètres en amont et à l'ouest de Pchengi, à 1,825 mètres en aval et au nord-est de Hadji-Mahalé. Le village de Belibe et les ruines de Kemhalik restent ainsi à la Bulgarie, les villages de Tchovankioj, Kaïrak-Mahalé, et Kosik, à la Roumélie Orientale.

De la rive gauche du Déli-Kamtchik, et par l'arête rocheuse qui aboutit au point indiqué précédemment, la frontière monte sur la crête du Kapi-Baïr. Elle se prolonge alors sur la ligne de partage entre les eaux du Déli-Kamtchik et du Bouyouk-Kamtchik, laissant à la Bulgarie les villages de Aidos-Bredja, Kaïardi, Lopouchna, Beklchi, et à la Roumélie Orientale ceux de Hadji-Mahalé, Tikenlik, Dokhankioj, Karaveliler, Dérékioj, et Aivadjik. Elle suit ensuite le Karnabad-Balkan entre Baïram-Déré et Kéréméttli, jusque près du chemin qui mène de Tchali-Kavak dans l'Ak-Déré à Kamtchi-Mahalé. La terrasse s'étendant jusqu'à 500 mètres au nord du col que traverse ce chemin, et qui porte le nom de Passe de Dobral reste à la Roumélie Orientale; puis la frontière rejoint, au nord d'une batterie abandonnée, la crête du Débélitch-Balkan, et se prolonge sur la ligne de partage des eaux par Tioula-Baïr, Mouminar-Baïr, et Tépékioch, jusqu'à ce qu'elle rencontre la route de Verbitza à Sungurlar et Jousoutlou. De là, et sur un parcours d'environ 3 kilom., la frontière s'écarte de la ligne de partage pour suivre le bord oriental de la dite route, partout où cette route se développe sur le versant est d'une série de petits mamelons. Elle traverse la route à l'embranchement d'un sentier qui mène directement à une karaoula ruinée, sise à 1 kilom. au nord-ouest ouest, et court alors par la ligne de faîte dénommée Prisevica et Asap-Balkan sur la Carte Autrichienne.

A 2,600 mètres à l'est nord-est de la Passe de Kotel, la ligne-frontière rencontre un petit plateau dont elle contourne sur le versant nord la crête extérieure, puis par la ligne de partage et par un coude à angle droit elle atteint à 500 mètres de ce coude la tête d'un ravin profond, où la route de Kotel à Osmau-Bazar descend, en pente raide; de là elle gagne le tournant voisin de la route, la traverse, en suit le bord occidental pendant 1 kilom., s'en détache à la tête d'un autre ravin escarpé, pour contourner le Koulé-Tépé, longe de nouveau le bord extérieur de la route jusqu'à l'ensellement du col, et après avoir suivi la crête militaire de façon à laisser successivement à la Roumélie les sommets de trois hauteurs situées à l'ouest de la passe, reprend à $2\frac{1}{2}$ kilom. de cette passe la ligne de faîte du Kazan-Balkan.

A 9 kilom à l'ouest de la Passe de Kotel la frontière se confond, dans la chaîne principale des Balkans, avec la grande ligne de partage, généralement orientée de l'est à l'ouest, qui sépare les eaux des affluents du Danube au nord, et celles qui, au sud, se rendent dans la Mer Noire par les sources du Déli-Kamtchik, et bientôt après dans la Mer Egée par les vallées de la Toundja, de la Strema (Giopsou-Déré) et de la Topolnitza. Elle ne s'en écarte sur le versant nord que dans les endroits désignés ci-après :

Passe de Démir-Kapou.—Crête militaire depuis le point où la route escarpée montant de Stara-Rieka (à la Bulgarie) atteint cette crête, jusqu'à 825 mètres à l'ouest du point où elle descend sur Slivno (à la Roumélie Orientale). Puis, ligne de partage par Zoupantzi-Mesari, Bida Krava, Tchoumourna (727).

Passe de Tvarditza.—Crête militaire marquée par un escarpement rocheux depuis le mamelon situé à 700 mètres à l'est du grand tournant (514) de la route, jusqu'au col situé à 1,500 mètres à l'ouest de ce tournant; la frontière coupe la route à 150 mètres en avant et au-dessous du tournant.

Passe de Hain Boghaz.—A partir d'un mamelon sis à 1,300 mètres nord-est du col (321), et 1,600 mètres est de Porortzi, ligne tracée à 120 mètres parallèlement à la crête du contrefort qui rattache à la ligne de partage le plateau dominant Botchkovtzi, situé au nord, Biéjivtzi et Ivanovtzi à l'ouest, contournant ce plateau par sa crête militaire et courant de nouveau parallèlement à la ligne de faîte, en sens contraire et à la même distance moyenne de 120 mètres, jusqu'après le mamelon sis à 1,500 mètres à l'ouest de la passe. Puis grande ligne de partage par le point 4453 et le sommet de Mrazietz.

Passe de Trasna.—Crête militaire depuis un point situé à 375 mètres au sud-est du col marqué par le tournant le plus aigu de la route, jusqu'au col sis au sud-est des mines de charbon, de manière à laisser à la Roumélie Orientale la Gora Krestiotz (480)

au nord et les trois mamelons au sud du grand tournant de la route, avec un rayon de 150 mètres environ autour de ces divers sommets; la frontière coupe ainsi la route à 350 mètres au nord-ouest du grand coude précité. Puis grande ligne de partage par la Gora Bolgarka, Bidek, Tchetchounek, Attovo-Padalo, Bouzloudja, Biéli Kladenitzi, Tirsova (Tirsiouvitz);

Passe de Chipka.—Crête militaire depuis un point situé à 300 mètres au sud de Démir-Tépé, pour donner à la Roumélie Orientale ce sommet, celui de Demievitz et la terrasse au-dessous du Mont Sveti-Nicolaï; bord occidental de cette terrasse jusqu'à 20 mètres de la route; ligne tracée à 20 mètres parallèlement au bord extérieur de cette route en laissant toutefois à la Bulgarie les deux cimetières Russes qui se trouvent dans le ravin à l'est; arc de cercle de 40 mètres de rayon autour du sommet de Ouzoun-Kouch; ligne revenant parallèlement à la route, à l'ouest et à 20 mètres du bord jusqu'à hauteur du Mont Chipka (Krouglaja-Batareja); crête militaire à une distance moyenne de 100 mètres au-dessous de la ligne de partage, laissant à la Roumélie Orientale les sommets de Bachenitza, Malich, et Lizaïa, jusqu'à 600 mètres au nord de Lizaïa Gora. Puis grande ligne de partage des eaux par le col de la Vetropolska-Poljana, les sommets de Kourita, de Malohoska-Poljana, Tcherveni-Lokva, Develdjaskaja-Poljana, Biéli-Kladinietz, la Passe de Rozalita, la Gorna Marngedik, le point trigonométrique 1113, la Gora Jounrouktzal, la Gora Krivianiti (1061), le Gladi-Dol, et l'Ostra-Mogila entre lesquels passe le sentier conduisant du Czerni-Osem à Karlovo, l'Amboritza (1000), le point 811, près du Lac Sari-Gœl, qui reste à la Roumélie Orientale, le Balkan Ventzeli, les points 740, 739, 709, et le signal trigonométrique 774.

Passe de Trajan.—Crête militaire depuis le signal 774 jusqu'à un petit col situé à 1,150 mètres à l'ouest du point où le chemin franchit la ligne de faîte. Puis la grande ligne de partage par les points 749 et 755 du Midistri-Balkan, la Gora Kozia-Stienka, Selva, Sovrano-Stiéna, et le Démir-Kapou.

Passe de Ribaritza (Rabanica sur la Carte Autrichienne).—Crête militaire dominant la coupe où s'élève le chemin du Biéli-Vid à Rachmanli, depuis Démir-Kapou et au-dessous du Jounrouk, jusqu'à 1,500 mètres à l'est du Vejen. Puis la grande ligne de partage par Vejen, Balavan, Pascal (954,2), jusqu'au septième mamelon à 1,750 mètres ouest de ce dernier sommet. (Ce point dénommé Djémina sur le versant sud et Pascal sur le versant nord correspond au point de rebroussement fixé par l'Article II du Traité de Berlin sous le nom de Kosica.)

A Kosica, la ligne-frontière quitte la crête de la chaîne principale du Grand Balkan, descend vers le sud par le thalweg de la Gramotnika jusqu'à son confluent avec la Topolnitza, laissant à l'ouest le pic de Monastirski-Kamik, et les ruines du Monastère du Sveti-Elia, et passant entre les villages de Pirtop et Douchantzi, laissés l'un à la Bulgarie, l'autre à la Roumélie Orientale.

Du confluent de la Gramotnika et de la Topolnitza (ou Tuzlu-Déré), elle suit de l'est à l'ouest vers Petricevu, le cours de cette dernière rivière, jusqu'à 2,050 mètres en amont de son confluent avec le Smolsko-Déré.

De là, la frontière se dirige du sud au nord, sur une longueur de 750 mètres, par un ravin affluent, pour tourner ensuite à angle droit de l'est à l'ouest dans un autre ravin jusqu'au petit col au nord de Kerbova; elle gagne au nord le sommet de Mala-Mogila, tourne de nouveau à l'ouest, laisse le Govlema-Mogila à la Roumélie Orientale, et descend au Mirkovo-Déré par le troisième ravin au nord, et en amont du confluent du Mirkovo-Déré et du Smolsko-Déré; elle suit le Mirkovo-Déré jusqu'au dit confluent, remonte ensuite le Smolsko-Déré jusqu'en un point, situé en face du second ravin affluent de gauche au-dessus de ce confluent et à 2,200 mètres en amont de celui du Smolsko-Déré avec la Topolnitza; puis tournant vers le sud-ouest elle gagne en ligne droite le sommet du mamelon voisin de la Koliba-Bodiat.

La frontière suit alors vers l'ouest et le nord-ouest la ligne de partage des eaux entre les ruisseaux du Smolsko-Déré et de la Kamenitza, jusqu'au sommet situé à 500 mètres au sud-ouest de la Sveta-Petka, et à 1 kilom. au sud de Voyniak (439,1). En continuant par la ligne de faîte, elle gagne le sommet de Kamenitza-Mera, tourne au sud entre les eaux de la Kamenitza d'une part, de la Ravna et de la Seliska de l'autre, atteint le point 558 (Gora-Komnitza), qui correspond au point marqué 875 sur la Carte Autrichienne, et spécifié dans l'Article II du Traité; passe par le point 544 et Ravna-Glava, se prolonge parallèlement à la Kriva-Rieka, qui reste à la Bulgarie avec le hameau de Bogdanovitz (Bogdina sur la Carte Autrichienne), jusqu'au point 410, et va couper la route de Yakarel à Ichtiman à 520 mètres en aval du confluent de la Kriva-Rieka dans l'Ichtiman-Déré; ce point est marqué par les ruines de la première de deux karaoulas qui gardaient le débouché du bassin supérieur de la vallée, dans

l'étranglement où se pressent la route, le ruisseau avec sa rive droite garnie d'un perré en maçonnerie et la tranchée du chemin de fer en construction ; l'emplacement de la karaoula reste à la Roumélie Orientale.

Après avoir traversé perpendiculairement route, ruisseau, et chemin de fer, la frontière suit sur la rive droite de l'Ichtiman-Déré la ligne de mamelons constituant la limite sud-est du bassin de la Babina-Réka, passe à 800 mètres au nord de Chamchadinova, coupe à 1,800 mètres au nord d'Adjamza un ravin affluent de la vallée d'Hadjilar (Réka-Bozalan), et court le long de la ligne de faîte la plus voisine et parallèle à cette vallée.

La frontière atteint ainsi le Sivri-Tépé (482), où elle tourne au sud pour suivre la ligne de partage entre les eaux de l'Isker et de la Maritza ; elle traverse la route de Tchiarmourli à Ichtiman au col marqué 404, monte le long d'une croupe jusqu'à la crête du Kara-Baïr, atteint cette crête en un mamelon situé à 900 mètres à l'ouest de Gorni-Kalé, gagne sur la crête, dans la direction est-ouest, le mamelon suivant, et en descend directement au col où prend naissance la Tcherna-Réka. Courant toujours sur la même ligne de partage, elle remonte au sommet de Velina-Mogila, coupe le chemin secondaire de Novo-Selo à Gutzal, passe par le Gutzalski-Vrh, côtoye une karaoula ruinée qui gardait la route de Samakov à Banja, et dont l'emplacement reste à la Roumélie Orientale, coupe quelques mètres plus bas la dite route, se dirige par la Priova-Ravnisti et la Vitana sur le col où naît le Siganska-Déré, traverse le massif de la Sumnatica en coupant le chemin direct de Samakov à Radwil, et atteint les pentes du Rhodope au col très-étroit où deux petits affluents de la Maritza et de la Velica-Bistritza, la Slivnitza, et la Loucovitza, courant en sens inverse semblent se confondre.

De ce col, par la croupe qui sépare les hautes eaux de la Maritza et de la Velica Bistritza, et par un sommet désigné sous le nom de Teham-Kourou la frontière va rejoindre entre Sivri-Tach et Cadir-Tépé, la crête principale du Rhodope marquée sur la Carte Autrichienne comme la limite de l'ancien Sandjak de Sofia.

Art. 2. La ligne de démarcation entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale, de la Mer Noire jusque près du Cadir-Tépé, est rapportée, avec tous ses détails, sur un croquis au $\frac{1}{42000}$ dressé d'après les levés des topographes Russes et ci-annexé, qui servira comme document explicatif dans tous les cas où le texte pourrait soulever quelque doute.

Toutes les distances indiquées dans l'Article précédent sont mesurées sur le dit croquis en ligne droite et en projection horizontale. Par "crête militaire" on entend la ligne des points où la pente généralement assez douce à partir d'un sommet ou d'une ligne de faîte, s'accentue et devient plus rapide pour former le versant d'une vallée, d'une rivière, ou d'un ravin.

Art. 3. Aux termes du dernier alinéa de l'Article II du Traité de Berlin, le Gouvernement Ottoman ne pourra pas élever de fortifications sur le territoire de la Roumélie Orientale dans un rayon de 10 kilom. autour de Samakov.

L'arc de cercle qui limite à l'est la zône dans laquelle toute construction de fortification reste interdite à la Turquie, se détache de la frontière à 200 mètres au sud du sommet de Velina-Mogila, coupe la route de Banja à Samakov à 2,200 mètres nord-ouest de l'église de Gutzal, passe à 1,250 mètres à l'ouest de ce village, à la même distance à l'ouest de l'église de Radwil, court ensuite à peu près parallèlement à la Maritza sur une étendue de 5 à 6 kilom., et va rejoindre la frontière au Teham-Kourou.

Cette ligne est tracée sur le croquis annexé à la description de la frontière.

Art. 4. Pour satisfaire au vœu unanime exprimé par les Plénipotentiaires des sept Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, d'après un sentiment de respect pour la mémoire des hommes morts au champ d'honneur dans les ravins de Chipka, il ne sera apporté aucune entrave au libre passage des particuliers ou des processions se rendant dans un but pieux par la grande route aux deux grands cimetières, qui font partie de la Bulgarie conformément à l'Article 1er ci-dessus et où reposent les restes des soldats Russes tués autour de la passe ; les cimetières moins importants ainsi que les tombes isolées qui existent dans ces parages sur le territoire attribué à la Roumélie Orientale seront sous la protection du Gouvernement de cette province, qui les fera respecter et veillera à leur entretien.

Art. 5. Il appartiendra aux parties intéressées de prendre d'un commun accord telles mesures qu'elles croiront utiles pour établir des marques de bornage sur les diverses frontières, conformément au tracé arrêté par la Commission.

Pour faciliter ce travail dans les environs de Chipka la ligne-frontière dans le voisinage a été rapportée spécialement sur un plan au $\frac{1}{21000}$ établi en deux expéditions destinées aux Représentants de la Turquie et de la Bulgarie dans la Commission de Bornage.

Art. 6. Il appartiendra également aux parties intéressées de régler directement ou après entente réciproque, pour les maintenir ou les transformer par des compensations équivalentes, les droits de pacage ou d'usage dans les bois que pourraient avoir, par écrits, par possession ou par prescription, certaines communes frontières sur des territoires attribués par le présent Acte à une principauté ou province voisine.

Il sera d'ailleurs apporté dans les lois et règlements de douane à intervenir tous les tempéraments de nature à ménager les intérêts économiques des populations frontières.

Conformément aux stipulations précises du Traité de Berlin, les droits de propriété des particuliers sur des immeubles situés dans une autre principauté ou province que celle de leur résidence, demeurent intacts.

Art. 7. Le présent Acte contenant sept Articles et établi, avec le croquis annexe indiqué aux Articles 2 et 3, en sept expéditions reconnues identiques, une pour chaque Puissance représentée dans la Commission de Délimitation, a été signé par tous les Commissaires, en vertu de leurs pouvoirs et instructions.

Il sera soumis immédiatement à l'approbation des Gouvernements de l'Allemagne, de l'Autriche-Hongrie, de la France, de la Grande Bretagne, de l'Italie, de la Russie, et de la Turquie, par leurs Commissaires respectifs, et porté ensuite à la connaissance des parties intéressées pour recevoir son exécution.

Fait à Thérapia, le quatorze Août, mil huit cent soixante-dix-neuf.

(Signé) E. B. HAMLEY.
C. Cte von WEDEL.
C. C. de RIP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

No. 182.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 173.)

My Lord, (*On leave*), *Constantinople, September* 4, 1879.

THIS morning, in answer to a telegram received from your Lordship, I had the honour to send a cyphered despatch to the following purport:—

That the complaints of his Excellency the Governor-General of East Roumelia, as reported by Mr. Michell, relative to the non-occupation by the Porte of the districts of Kotel and Ichtiman might very possibly be due to the fact, of which I myself had already been informed, that the new frontier, as laid down by the Boundary Commission in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin, cuts, or is said to cut, the two districts in question after such fashion that while the principal towns, whence they derive their names, are assigned to the one, that is the Turkish, side of the line, some of the smaller and dependent hamlets, with certain fields and pastures similarly dependent, remain on the other, or Bulgarian; a ready cause of ambiguity and contention. I added that should this, as I expected it would, prove to be the basis of the present difficulty, the matter might, with a little good will and good faith on either side, be easily arranged to the satisfaction of all parties without risk of territorial infringement, but that anyhow I would, on my return to the head-quarters assigned me at Sophia by Her Majesty's Government, represent the affair seriously to the Government of Bulgaria.

I may now add that precisely similar circumstances of territorial or communal bisection have been at the bottom of nine-tenths of the ambiguities and difficulties that have arisen on the Servo-Bulgarian frontier; now it appears in a fair way towards amicable settlement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 183.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 174.)
My Lord, *(On leave), Constantinople, September 4, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge, with thanks, the communication of his Excellency Sir A. H. Layard's despatch No. 723, regarding the reception of the Prince of Bulgaria by His Majesty the Sultan, in your Lordship's despatch No. 120 of the 28th August last.

The statements contained in the above-mentioned inclosure are identical with those made me on the same subject by word of mouth by his Excellency Sir A. H. Layard, in an interview with which he honoured me.

Both statements, that of His Highness the Prince, namely, and that of his Excellency Sir A. H. Layard, seem to agree in the main as to facts, differing only in appreciation. On the value of that of the Prince I cannot express, because I cannot form, any available opinion, but, while sincerely regretting, I could not avoid, in duty, reporting it.

I also regret to have to state that it did not appear to me, from the tenour and tone of His Highness' communication on the subject, that his estimate was formed, at least essentially, on any particular suggestion except that of his own observation and mind. But this is entirely apart from the question of its correctness.

I have, however, the honour to note with pleasure that in his courteous and cordial reception of Pertev Effendi, the bearer of the Imperial Berat, His Highness the Prince has given proof of the sincerity of his declaration, already reported by myself, that he would not allow his own personal feelings of annoyance to influence in any way his bearing towards the Sublime Porte, or diminish the respect and duty he owed towards his Suzerain the Sultan; with whom it was and would be his most earnest desire to be on the friendliest, even, as His Highness expressed it, cordial terms. Nor is he, I trust, disposed to entertain any less respectful, far less any hostile, sentiments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 184.

Sir Lintorn Simmons to Sir Julian Pauncefote.—(Received September 12.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *War Office, September 10, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th August, in which, by direction of the Marquis of Salisbury, you have forwarded a correspondence relative to the Asiatic frontier of Turkey under the Treaty of Berlin, also of your letter of the 6th instant, with inclosures, on the same subject, and to submit for his Lordship's consideration the following observations.

The frontier intended to be described in the latter part of the LVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin was that which was delineated on the tracing of the (20 verst) map left by Count Schouvaloff with Lord Salisbury in London previous to the meeting of Congress.

Great difficulties were experienced in describing the line, in consequence of the small scale of the maps that were available. Efforts had been made by the Russian officers to have the frontier described in such a way as to have taken it a good deal to the south of the line drawn by Count Schouvaloff; but although his Excellency stated that the line had been drawn differently from what was intended by the instructions with reference to it which had been telegraphed to him from St. Petersburgh, still he considered himself bound by the trace given to Lord Salisbury, and the Article of the Treaty was worded as carefully as the only maps at the disposal of the Congress would admit with a view to establishing the boundary in accordance therewith.

The boundary from the Black Sea to the point at which Count Schouvaloff's traced line was to commence was agreed to by Congress on the 10th July (Protocol 17, p. 245), its latter part being described thus:—

"Elle suivra cette rivière (Pennek Tchai) jusqu'à Bardouy, puis se dirigera vers

le sud, en laissant Bardouy et Yeni Keui à la Russie, et rejoindra la ligne fixée par le Traité de San Stefano à Zivin Kale."

As this line so described would have extended to the south of that subsequently agreed upon by the British, Russian and Turkish Plenipotentiaries on the 12th July (Protocol 19), the text of what was agreed to on the 10th July (Protocol 17) was altered in the Treaty, so as not to clash with the description of Count Schouvaloff's traced line as agreed upon by the British, Russian, and Turkish Plenipotentiaries, by the omission of the words "et rejoindra la ligne fixée par le Traité de San Stefano à Zivin Kale."

It is evident, therefore, that it was not intended to alter the line as fixed at the meeting of the 10th July (Protocol 17), except in so far as it might overlap Count Schouvaloff's traced line by extending to the south of the starting point of that line west of Karaourgan.

It appears from Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke's despatch No. 23 of the 22nd April, that the Russian and Turkish Commissioners have agreed to a line representing the frontier described in the 17th Protocol of the 10th July, and in the first part of the LVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and have submitted to their respective Governments a plan and written description thereof duly signed.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, at the meeting of the Commission on the 5th May, drew attention to the fact that not only had the point west of Karaourgan been fixed by the Russian and Turkish Commissioners, but that the line of frontier had been traced beyond Karaourgan, and therefore beyond the point at which the tri-partite Commission were to commence their operations, and as a consequence the line south of the parallel of latitude passing through the village of Karaourgan was erased with the concurrence of General Stebnitzky, the then Russian Commissioner, but difficulties have since arisen as to the precise position of this point.

In the map given by M. de Giers to Lord Dufferin, and forwarded in his Lordship's despatch No. 389, it appears that the parallel of latitude passing through the village in which the "point west of Karaourgan" lies, agrees with that shown by Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke on the maps forwarded by him; the differences, therefore, that have arisen in the Commission refer merely to the position in that parallel of the point in question.

The maps inclosed by Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke in his despatches Nos. 38 and 74 are on a scale the double of that of the map on which the Russian and Turkish Commissioners traced their boundary, and of which the map given to Lord Dufferin by M. Giers was a copy.

It is to be observed that the point X on the map forwarded by Lieutenant-Colonel in his despatch No. 38 is described by him as being "on the frontier previously traced by the Russians and Turks," where it crosses the parallel of latitude passing through the village.

In his despatch No. 74 Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke states that on the original signed map in possession of the Turkish Commissioner the frontier is very roughly marked by bands of green and red chalk, a quarter-of-an-inch wide (which represents nearly 600 yards) over all, the line of contact of the colours being blurred and difficult to distinguish, and forwards a map in which he shows a red-dotted line representing, within certain limits, the line of contact of the two colours, which he says at best is only an approximation, but which should mark the frontier.

On comparing these two maps by Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, it appears that the point at which the red-dotted line in the latter crosses the parallel of latitude, which ought to correspond with the description of the point X, as given in his despatch No. 38, is nearly 500 yards to the westward of that point X, as shown on the plan which accompanied that despatch.

The Russian map appears to place the point about 500 yards further to the westward, and across the stream which comes from the village marked Isti Su.

If it depended solely upon the interpretation of a map drawn in the way described by Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, it would not be remarkable to find this divergence of opinion as to the point at which the frontier-line traced by the Russian and Turkish Commissioners crosses the parallel of Karaourgan. Fortunately, however, this frontier-line is described in the document before referred to, duly signed on the 7th April, and submitted by the Commissioners to their respective Governments, a translation of which is inclosed in Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke's despatch No. 23. In this the frontier is described as following "the line of water-parting and of the hills that stretch towards the south-west until it strikes the point (indicated on the map) to the west of Karaourgan."

This written description ought to suffice for the determination *in situ* of the position of the true "point to the west of Karaourgan." There may be disputes on a map which has not been verified and upon which the line has not been drawn with care, but where two streams converge, as in this case, there ought to be no practical difficulty whatever in determining with mathematical accuracy on the ground the line of water-parting between them down to the point of their junction, and as the parallel of Karaourgan is to the north of that junction, the written description ought to be final and absolute as to the true "point to the west of Karaourgan" mentioned in the Treaty.

It matters little whether that point is a few hundred yards more or less to the west of the village. Wherever, upon accurate survey, the water parting may cut the parallel of latitude through the village, it should, I think, be accepted; and certainly neither the Russian nor Turkish Commissioners who agreed to the written description ought to object.

The proposition to place the point to the west of the Isti Su stream, as shown on the Russian map, is inadmissible, not only because it does not agree with the description, but because the frontier, in its further progress towards Medjingert, would immediately recross that stream.

As the various maps differ from each other in many respects besides those above referred to, it would only add to the complication to attempt to lay down a tentative frontier, as suggested by Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh.

From what has preceded, moreover, it will be seen that I do not think it necessary with regard to the starting point west of Karaourgan, and the maps are altogether insufficient to attempt such a proceeding south-east of that point towards Medjingert.

Whatever may be settled as to this disputed point, I would strongly urge that any agreement to be made should on no account be coupled with any condition such as that suggested by Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke in his despatch No. 73 of the 26th August, by which Her Majesty's Government would undertake to consider favourably any proposition with regard to landmarks round Karaourgan not detrimental to the defence of the Zivin position.

Such a condition might lead to great complications. At Berlin persistent attempts were made to complicate the description of this frontier by introducing military considerations connected with the position of Zivin, but they were set aside by a strict adherence to a line as traced by Count Schouvaloff and agreed to by Lord Salisbury.

I believed at the time by this adherence the whole of the position of Zivin would fall to Turkey, which now appears to be the case, and I think if instructions were sent to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke and the other Commissioners to adhere as nearly as possible to the line traced by Count Schouvaloff, and to the description of it given in the LVIIIth Article of the Treaty, all discussion as to the military position of Zevin and its defences, which are not mentioned in the Treaty of Berlin, will be avoided, and the work of delimitation will be settled most expeditiously.

There can be no doubt that Lieutenant-Clarke is quite right in his assumption that no part of the line to be traced can lie to the westward of the starting point west of Karaourgan, but it would, I conceive, tend to the prevention of disputes if the Commission were to proceed, as soon as this point (west of Karaourgan) has been determined, to verify the map upon the ground, before making any attempt to describe the frontier on a map which has not been verified. If this be not done, errors subsequently found would give rise to fresh disputes; and, moreover, unless the British and Turkish Commissioners have been over the ground and examined it, they may be led into a grave mistake in deciding the point near Medjingert, from which the Treaty specifies that the boundary is to be "continued in a straight line towards the summit of the mountain Kassa-Dagh."

This point should be fixed before any attempt is made to continue the line from the "point west of Karaourgan."

It is quite as important, if not more so, than the starting point near Karaourgan, because upon it the line is to be directed from the starting point, and from it the straight line leading upon the Kassa-Dagh is to be drawn.

As to the latter line there can be no dispute, because, after much deliberation at Berlin, it was described as a straight line to prevent all possible divergence or disagreement as to its course.

Having determined the starting point, and the point near Medjingert, the boundary between these two points should, in accordance with Count Schouvaloff's traced line, be as nearly straight as possible, consideration being had to local circumstances which might dictate slight divergences not prejudicial to either party, having for their object the convenience of demarcation by natural features such as water-courses or partings.

The intrinsic value of the land in these regions is so small that, if undertaken in a liberal and fair spirit, free from local prejudice, there ought to be little difficulty in settling the boundary.

I would observe, however, that the experience of this dispute shows that it would tend to economy of time, labour, and money, if, in the event of a disagreement on the part of the Commission, they were directed to prepare identical maps, illustrative of their differences, which should be signed by all, and sent to their respective Governments.

I have, &c
(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

No. 185.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 654. Private.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 11, 1879.

I SAW the Sultan last night. He has, I hope, got over his idea that I am going to Syria to bring back Midhat Pasha to make him Grand Vizier. He has promised that the Slave Trade Convention will receive his Iradé as soon as papers are sent him. He told me that he had authorized the nomination of Finance Inspectors. Colonel Synge will, I believe, be sent to [? Macedonia], Shouldham to Damascus, and Coope to Erzeroum to organize the [? gendarmerie].

His Majesty spoke chiefly about his financial embarrassments and dangers arising from them. He still wishes for Englishmen in the Treasury and the Customs, and to raise a loan on Cyprus revenues.

Turkish Minister of Finance is now preparing a scheme for a settlement with the foreign creditors, for raising a loan, and for the employment of foreigners to control receipts of Treasury. I have not yet been fully acquainted with details, but the Ottoman Bank is to take part in the arrangement, which [? Mr. Foster] thinks could be acceptable with some modifications. Both Aarify and Safvet Pashas have assured me that they have every hope of being able to appoint Baker to Kurdistan, and have begged me to leave the matter in their hands.

Greek Commissioners will now, I have reason to believe, withdraw their opposition and commence negotiations.

I see nothing to retain me here, and I have not heard from you in reply to my private telegram No. 649. I leave for Jaffa this afternoon.

No. 186.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 655.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 11, 1879, 5·30 P.M.

TURKISH Ambassador at Vienna telegraphs that Count Andrassy has assured him that if the Porte will insure that the joint occupation of Novi-Bazar shall take place peaceably and without opposition, Turkey may count upon support of Austria in any measures that may be necessary to carry out Treaty of Berlin as regards Eastern Roumelia, such as the entry of the Turkish troops into the province and the occupation of Bourgas.

No. 187.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 656.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 11, 1879, 4·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING received from Her Majesty's Consul at Bourgas, dated yesterday:—

"Authorities report skirmish in Aïdos Balkans between militia police and Turkish band. Militia was defeated with loss of twenty-two killed and wounded and missing. Details are wanting, but if affair becomes serious I will telegraph again."

No. 188.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September* 11, 1879.

NOTWITHSTANDING solemn pledges that the Minister for Foreign Affairs has repeatedly given that the Jewish emancipation [?] would be an accomplished fact before the end of the present year, his Excellency now urges that success of measure might be endangered were the extraordinary Skuptchina convoked for the purpose of passing it; but that he is nevertheless prepared to take this step at once should the Great Powers insist upon it, whereas, if permitted to choose his own time, he will be able to vouch for the result.

There are no grounds to doubt that both Prince Milan and his Minister intend loyally to abide by their engagement, although they look forward to the meeting of the extraordinary Skuptchina with some apprehension, on account of internal political questions.

At the same time it is to be feared that the longer the consideration of the measure is deferred, the greater the risk of its encountering opposition.

No. 189.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September* 11, 1879, 10 P.M.

SIGNOR CAIROLI informed M. Boerescu that Italy is obliged to adhere to the language of the Treaty, but some solution might be found in adoption into the Constitution. I do not believe that his Excellency or Count Malfei are in favour of immediate and radical measures.

No. 190.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 82.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, September* 11, 1879, 7·30 P.M.

BULGARIANS and Turks in this town accuse each other of intention to commit general massacre, and have petitioned Governor-General to that effect.

A report made to me from Haskoui shows that Turks are equally ill-off there. The condition of the Turkish refugees is alarming all over the province.

(Confidential.)

General Strecker says if he does not succeed, by shooting a militiaman or two, and other severe measures, in establishing discipline and order, he will abandon the attempt. He also says Russians are much alarmed at the state of affairs.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 191.

Mr. Ejertan to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 149.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 12, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Baron Calice read me first despatch which was communicated in London.

I said that it differed from that which Count Andrassy mentioned to Sir Henry Elliot.

Under-Secretary of State answered that latter must be note actually presented to the Russian Government, which he brought and read to me. It is, nearly as possible, in these terms:—

"We desire settlement of the question as much as M. de Giers, and we are ready to display same good-will as on previous occasions. We were ready to submit decision to the Ambassadors at Constantinople; we consented besides that the Commission of Delimitation should re-examine impartially site proposed by Russia for the construction of the bridge, and the object we had in view was to facilitate to Russia definitive settlement of the question.

"When in this spirit we consider latest proposal of Russia, we find that there are no grounds for taking from the Commission of Delimitation a task of examining point in question. Nevertheless, we do not refuse to agree to Russian wish to send engineers. Russian proposal of understanding between Cabinets seems calculated to adjourn settlement—which Russia also desires—of the question, and threatens to keep it in suspense, if not to aggravate it.

"We therefore trust that the Russian Cabinet will entertain some sort of definitive decision by majority; the more so as, in the present phase of the question, there is not a question of principle but merely practical question at issue."

Under-Secretary of State did not give me copy of either of these documents.

No. 192.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 236.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 12, 1879, 3 P.M.

YOURS 652.

I should think that the Turks might propose some German officer, taking care to avoid any one of Russian sympathies.

No. 193.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 12, 1879, 4 P.M.

YOUR telegram of 10th proposing meeting of Commission.

You had better first find out from Safvet Pasha how the Turks stand, and what they mean to do.

No. 194.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 72.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 12, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegram of the 10th instant, suggesting that you should bring about a meeting of the Asiatic Frontier Commission, in order to ascertain whether any modifications have taken place in the opinions of the respective Commissioners as regards the position of the point west of Karaourgan mentioned in Article LVIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have in reply expressed my opinion that it would be best in the first place to

ascertain through Safvet Pasha the present views and intentions of the Porte and its Commissioners.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 195.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1168. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, September 12, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 652 of the 10th instant, stating that Safvet Pasha would be glad to have the advice of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the persons who should be requested to arbitrate on the questions in dispute with regard to the line of frontier between Artwin and Narinnan.

I have suggested in reply that the Porte might propose to refer the matter to some German officer of sufficient distinction. Care should, of course, be taken to avoid selecting any one of pronounced Russian sympathies.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 196.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 56. Political.)
Salonica, August 28, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 2 of the 31st ultimo, in which your Lordship is pleased to convey your approval of the representations made by me to the Turkish authorities, urging them to dispense with the services of the "Kirserdars" and other irregulars who are employed in the police of the province, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch, with two inclosures, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reporting the result of further representations made by me against those irregulars and the Circassians in the districts of Catterina and Caraferia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 196.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, August 26, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Excellency copy of a Report from M. Bizzo, the first Dragoman of this Consulate-General, upon the state of affairs in the districts of Catterina and Caraferia, which he has recently visited.

In an interview I have had with Rifaat Pasha, the Governor-General of Salonica, I called his serious attention to the information furnished by M. Bizzo relative to the Circassians and irregulars; and subsequently, with a view to more strongly impress upon him the necessity of his taking active measures in the matter, I addressed him an official letter, of which Inclosure No. 2 is a translation.

I am glad to say that the warning conveyed in that communication was not lost upon him; he dispatched the Chief of Police in a vessel of war to Catterina with strict orders to effect the removal of the Circassians to Salonica, and, at the same time, telegraphed to the Governor of Caraferia to send away the irregulars. Both these measures have been carried out with more decision and completeness than I anticipated. The Chief of Police has returned to Salonica, conveying with him fifty-six out of the sixty-three Circassian families who had come back to Catterina from Syria, and the Pasha told me that arrangements were being made to send them to Alexandretta, as well as the remaining seven families, who will be brought here in the course of next week.

I have also been assured by Messrs. Hanson's agents, and by M. Bizzo's correspondents at Catterina and Caraferia, that the Governor of those districts has at last dispensed with the services of the irregulars or "Kirserdars."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 196.

M. Bizzo to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général,

Salonique, ce $\frac{31 \text{ Juillet}}{12 \text{ Août}}$, 1879.

Trois jours auparavant le besoin s'est présenté pour que j'allasse à Catherine afin d'y régler quelques affaires à ma ferme. Après avoir obtenu permission, je m'y rendis le $\frac{12}{24}$ Juillet avec le Gouverneur Militaire Nedjib Pacha, sur la corvette Ottomane "Edirne," qui a amarré à 12 heures du soir. Nous arrivâmes à Catherine à 1 heure et demie du soir.

Le lendemain à 12 heures son Excellence Nedjib Pacha invita chez lui les Notables Turcs et Chrétiens du village, et en présence du Mudir de Catherine, du Général, et du Sous-Commandant des troupes, il leur ordonna strictement de surveiller le pays pour la tranquillité des habitants, et il ordonna successivement la poursuite sans relâche des brigands et le démembrement des corps des Bachi-Bozouks, comme il a été fait pour la province Verria.

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha sortit à 2 heures du matin de la corvette pour se rendre à Verria.

Le Soussigné et le susdit Pacha sont descendus à l'échelle, et lorsque nous étions dans la chambre de l'office de santé, avec le Mudir et le Bimbaschi attendant la chaloupe de "l'Edirne," le Commandant Achmet Bey entra tout à coup pour avertir le Pacha que le canot était prêt; puis, se tournant vers moi, il me demanda en particulier si mon frère se trouvait à Catherine, et sur ma réponse affirmative, il me dit: "Votre frère doit bien se garder, car des brigands sous le commandement du Circassien Hussein Capitan, ayant été informé que le Pacha et vous devaient arriver le Dimanche à Catherine et que votre frère devait aller vous recevoir, ont organisé un complot pour le tuer, mais le voyant avec le Commandant des troupes, il n'ont pas osé faire feu sur lui."

J'ai été bien stupéfait d'entendre ce fait, et j'ai tâché immédiatement à le communiquer à son Excellence Nedjib Pacha, qui demanda des informations au Capitaine Ahmet Bey. Celui ci n'a pas manqué de lui exposer le fait, en y ajoutant qu'il avait appris cela du Teufenetchi Bachi du 2e tabour, Mehmet Effendi, pendant leur conversation sur le brigandage.

Le Pacha, après avoir entendu ce fait, s'adressa au Mudir et au Bimbaschi, en leur disant: "Que sont ces faits, quelle surveillance du pays est-ce celle-là? dans Catherine même qu'il y ait ces faits."

Le Mudir a répondu: "Il est vrai, Excellence, que Hussein Capitan est un brigand renommé; dernièrement il a été exilé avec tous les Circassiens, et quand j'ai su qu'il était retourné, et qu'il avait entrepris de nouveau son ancien métier de brigand, j'ai exercé tous mes efforts, je l'ai arrêté, et expédié garrotté au Gouverneur-Général de Salonique, et maintenant, à ma grande surprise, j'entends de votre Excellence que ce bandit se promène de nouveau dans ces lieux."

Après avoir entendu ceci, Nedjib Pacha a dit qu'il est bien surpris de voir que ces Circassiens osent continuellement répéter de pareils crimes, tandis que dernièrement il a su qu'on devrait les exiler, et il ordonna alors qu'on les arrête, et qu'on tue celui qui résistera. Le Mudir répondit de nouveau, "Pour tant que je les poursuis, ceux-ci se réfugient dans les quartiers Turcs, et quand ils comprennent qu'ils doivent être arrêtés, ils s'enfuient immédiatement aux environs de Verria, et là ils s'inscrivent comme Bachi-Bozouks."

Le Pacha, en s'adressant au Bimbaschi, lui dit: "Toutes les fois que moi, mon frère, ou mon fils, se trouvent ici, qu'ils tâchent de surveiller notre existence par des forces militaires." Après son Excellence s'embarqua, le Bimbaschi et moi, nous restâmes à Catherine. Nedjib Pacha invita le Teufentchi dudit tabour, Mehemet Effendi, et en présence du Capitaine Ahmet Bey, il lui demanda d'où il avait entendu les susdites paroles; celui-ci répondit que lorsqu'il passait par la forêt il a entendu de la propre bouche de Hussein Capitan, sortant à découvert sur la route, que si les troupes Impériales ne s'y trouvaient pas il avait absolument l'intention de tirer sur mon frère, et de le tuer.

Le jour où je me préparais à partir pour ma ferme, il m'a été accordé par le Binbaschi quatorze soldats, sous la direction du Capitaine Mehmet Aga, avec l'ordre de séjourner dans ma ferme jusqu'à mon départ.

Le 22 Juillet (v.s.) j'ai appris qu'une trentaine de Circassiens, armés de fusils Martini, étaient passés par les environs de ma ferme, et que parmi eux il y en avait habillé avec une foustanelle, ressemblant à un Albanais, et ayant les traits d'un brigand.

Le lendemain je retournais à Catherine avec ma suite, pour y régler mes affaires. Une heure s'était à peine écoulée, et voici que les susdits Circassiens passèrent par le bazar, et rentrèrent dans une auberge.

J'ai alors demandé au Sous-Commandant des troupes, et au Mudir, qui étaient ces soldats? J'ai appris par eux que les Bachi-Bozouks, à Catherine comme à Verria, ont été licenciés, et en interrogeant les mêmes Circassiens ceux-ci ont répondu qu'ils sont au nombre de 100, répartis en trois corps, et nommés de Verria pour la poursuite des brigands. Leur ayant demandé s'ils ont un sauf-conduit ("bouyourldi"), ils répondirent qu'ils n'en avaient pas.

Le 25 Juillet (v.s.), s'étant approchés de ma ferme "Ayan," ils ont arrêté deux bouviers; après les avoir dévalisés et battus, ils sont entrés dans les champs de maïs, puis ils en ont coupé et emporté autant qu'ils purent.

Au lendemain à 10 heures, étant entrés dans ma ferme de "Cytrous," ils ont bandé les yeux à mon bouvier, l'ont battu et emporté avec eux.

Le 27 Juillet (v.s.), avec le Binbaschi et les soldats, nous entrâmes dans ma ferme pour y passer la journée et repartir le lendemain pour Salonique.

Personne ne connaissait ce qu'il était arrivé à mon bouvier, et c'est à 6 heures du jour que j'appris que mes bestiaux étaient sans gardien; je me mis à leur recherche; après deux jours j'ai su que huit têtes de bétail manquaient.

Après cela, sur l'ordre de Nedjib Pacha, des soldats ont été postés sur divers points de ma ferme, les uns éloignés des autres de demi à une heure de chemin. M. le Consul, si le dit bouvier est coupable, la police devait le conduire à la justice, s'il ne l'est pas, les Circassiens doivent être plutôt des bandits que des gens de police, car ils ont emporté mon bouvier les yeux bandés, et il n'y a aucun doute que cette affaire a été commise par inimitié et par mauvaise intention pour endommager mes intérêts et mon honneur.

Je n'ai qu'à manifester ma grande satisfaction pour la bonne conduite des soldats que son Excellence Nedjib Pacha a eu l'extrême bonté de placer dans ma ferme, et pour avoir donné des ordres pour la poursuite des brigands et la tranquillité du pays. Nous espérons que dorénavant la sûreté et la tranquillité publiques seront rétablies à Catherine. Pourtant vous êtes prié, M. le Consul, de vouloir exercer s'il est possible votre influence pour l'assurance de notre vie et de nos biens.

(Signé) J. BIZZO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 196.

Consul-General Blunt to Refaat Pasha.

Salonique, le 14 Août, 1879.

Excellence,

EN exprimant au nom de ce Consulat-Général des remerciments à son Excellence le Mushir Safvet Pacha pour les bons offices et protection que les troupes régulières sous ses ordres accordent aux sujets Britanniques qui ont des intérêts dans les districts de Caraferia et Catterina, j'ai néanmoins le regret de signaler à votre Excellence, qu'en dépit des assurances formelles que votre Excellence et son Excellence Safvet Pacha m'ont données, des Circassiens et Bachi-Bazouks continuent à séjourner dans les susdits districts où ils commettent impunément des désordres, ce qui est confirmé par diverses plaintes, et même par un Rapport que j'ai reçu de M. Bizzo, Premier Drogman de ce Consulat-Général.

En annexant une copie de ce Rapport, j'aime à espérer que votre Excellence prendra les mesures énergiques que la situation réclame. En attendant il est de mon devoir de prévenir votre Excellence que ce Consulat-Général considèrera le Caïmmam de Caraferia responsable pour les violences et dommages que les irréguliers en question pourraient commettre contre les sujets Britanniques et leurs intérêts dans les districts sous sa dépendance, et je dois en outre demander l'arrestation et jugement du notoire Circassien nommé "Capitan Hussein" qui, après avoir été saisi et expédié sous

arrêt à Salonique, de nouveau se trouve à Catterina en parfaite liberté y exerçant son métier de brigand.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 197.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 110. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, August* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that at the first reception accorded by the new Vali to the Mirdite Chieftain, Prenk Bib Doda, his Excellency thought it advisable to inform him that he had come to North Albania to change nothing, but to consolidate the Sultan's power. He said that he spoke to Prenk Bib Doda as if he was addressing the whole of the North Albanian Chiefs and tribes, and he wished them to understand that they must abandon all ideas of governing themselves; they must cease looking for support to the right or to the left, and that whatever the Sultan decides is good for them must be accepted with gratitude, and as sufficient.

The Mirdite Chieftain followed the only course open to him, and received the Vali's declaration in silence; but it will not surprise your Lordship to learn that Ali Haidar Pasha's language has painfully depressed the natives here, who had commenced to hope that an attempt would be made to enable the administration of this province to compare favourably with that of Montenegro.

I, too, have been disappointed at perceiving that the Porte has not availed itself of the recall of Hussein Pasha to send to North Albania a Governor of known ability. I do not feel that I am expressing a hazardous opinion by saying that Ali Haidar Pasha is not an administrator capable of inaugurating the changes stipulated for in Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, and that, on the contrary, although he may bear a most estimable private character, his ignorance and incompetency are likely to prove very effective in obstructing all reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 198.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 22. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, September* 5, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 21, Political, of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report that the 8th instant now appears to be the day positively fixed for the entry of the Austrian troops into the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar. One brigade, under General Obadits, will enter from Visegrad, and a second, under General Kilic, from Cainica.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Würtemberg starts to-morrow for the latter place, so as to be ready to personally take command of the troops should the slightest opposition be offered to their advance.

I have been informed on very good authority that some of the Mahommedan Beys unreservedly informed the Austrian Commission sent in advance of the troops that they were hostile to the Austrian occupation of their country, and would oppose it to the extent of their power. The fact of the Duke of Würtemberg, contrary to his previously expressed intention, proceeding at once to the frontier, would seem to corroborate this intelligence.

The points to be occupied by the Austrian troops are Priboj, Taslidza (also called Plevlje), and Prjepolje.

The occupation of Bjelopolje (Akova) has been abandoned for the present; but a slight advance is, therefore, being made from the actual frontier. Priboj is only

about 35 kilom. from Visegrad, and Prjepolje is about 70 kilom. from Cainica, Taslidza being on the road, and about 30 kilom. from the former town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 199.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 948.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 11, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 1107 of the 26th ultimo, and to my despatch No. 933 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to report that M. Waddington informed me this afternoon that he had, as he had promised, sent instructions to the French Commissioner in Montenegro to give due weight to the arguments of his English colleague with regard to the settlement of the portion of the new frontier-line between the Scutari Lake and the sea.

M. Waddington said that he had left the French Commissioner liberty to alter his vote, if he now thought fit, but had given him no order to do so.

But, added his Excellency, it appears that the Commissioners have just suspended their operations for this year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 200.

Mr. Thompson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received September 13.)

War Office, September 11, 1879.

My Lord,

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, the inclosed translation, made in the Topographical Branch of this Office, of a paragraph in the "Pester Lloyd" of the 6th instant, respecting a rumoured concentration of 45,000 Turks between San Stefano and Hermanli.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RALPH THOMPSON.

Inclosure in No 200.

Extract from the "Pester Lloyd" of September 6, 1879.

Adrianople, September 5.—The Turkish Government has concentrated about 45,000 men between San Stefano and Hermanli. The object of the concentration must be the impending occupation of Eastern Roumelia by the Turks. A secret order points also hereto, which Osman Pasha has issued to the Battalion-Commanders of the concentrated troops in the Vilayet of Adrianople, which runs as follows:—

"If the disloyal proceedings in the Ottoman Province of Eastern Roumelia do not soon come to an end, high interests of State may compel the Sultan, our exalted Ruler, to make use of his armed power both for the occupation of the Balkan passes and of the most important towns and strategical points of the above-mentioned province. If the events of the last year and the spreading agitation in Eastern Roumelia be considered, one must arrive at the conviction that the above-mentioned salutary measure will meet with opposition. It will, therefore, be the task of the brave army of the Sultan to overthrow the rebels, and to procure for the rights of the Imperial Government full and universal validity. For this purpose the troops must distinguish themselves by the spirit of discipline and of implicit obedience. You are hereby ordered to pay the greatest attention to strengthening the discipline of the body of troops placed under your command; the troops must refrain from all excess, and continually remain mindful of their task to be the guardians of order and law. In Eastern Roumelia no act contrary to discipline can be permitted; the land must not be regarded as an enemy's country; the troops must not violate the rights of any one, but must protect the rights of all and each individual. You have to act in preparation for this aim.

"The complaints of the troops will be looked into as soon as possible, as one may hope thereby to raise their spirit; efforts are at this moment being made to issue the arrears of pay to the troops concentrated in the Vilayet of Adrianople. Whatever concerns their maintenance will shortly undergo a judicious organization; reliable contractors are already in treaty with the Government on this subject. In one word, the Government will take all measures which seem appropriate, not only to protect the troops from any want, but also to put them in the enjoyment of all circumstances suitable to them. But for this a rapid elevation of discipline and a radical improvement in their ruling spirit is confidently expected.

"You will avoid no pains to accomplish this result as speedily and as completely as possible."

No. 201.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 82. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, September 12, 1879.*

IN the course of conversation to-day the Governor-General said that, if an English and French iron-clad were sent to cruize off Bourgas, he would be able to disarm gymnasts and restore order and authority in the province. He is now persuaded that nothing can be done unless disarmament is effected, but he will not report this to the Porte, because Russian Ambassador would be at once informed of his view. He says that if Russia protests she can be told that disorder is of her own making, the result of distributing rifles and ammunition.

I think such a demonstration, if possible, would produce a good effect. A Turkish frigate might be added. The French Commissioner suggested the same course to me some days ago, but has not spoken to the Governor-General.

No. 202.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13, 3·20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajeco, September 13, 1879, 2·35 P.M.*

OCCUPATION of line of the Lim proceeds satisfactorily. Pripoj, Taslidza, and Priepolie occupied without opposition.

No. 203.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 222.)
My Lord, *Athens, September 6, 1879.*

THE polemic between the journals of the Opposition and those which defend the present Ministry has lately, especially since the attempt to turn out M. Coumoundouros and his friends has failed, become extremely bitter.

It is to be observed, however, that the press of all shades of opinion is unanimous as regards the question of the proposed rectification of the frontier. There is some difference as to the means which ought to be employed, but none as to the object to be obtained; that is, all that was proposed at Berlin should be conceded.

The organs of MM. Zaimis and Tricoupis, the gentlemen who failed recently in their attempt to take the places of the present Ministers, use very strong language in condemnation of the home policy of the Government, but call upon them to realize in their integrity, by any means, the recommendations of the 13th Protocol of Berlin. The same may be said of the Opposition press in general. It does not indeed approve the foreign policy of the Government, and reproaches it with not having brought to bear upon the business all the resources with which it has been supplied: "The Government," it says, "should have shown more energy and more initiative." The criticisms, however, are addressed more to the form than to the substance of the

question. The Government has not met with any real opposition in its external policy; on the contrary, all parties have done what they could to remove difficulties in the way of the realization of the wishes of the country.

I have the honour to inclose a précis of an article published in the "Ethnikon Pnevma" of the 30th ultimo, which has created a certain sensation here, as it is supposed to bear a semi-official character. It declares that the territory mentioned in Protocol 13 is the least it can accept; that Greece can wait three years for the realization of its desires, and will continue its preparations so as to be in a position to take possession by its own forces of what is denied to it by negotiation. It also speaks of the power of Greece to stir up troubles in Turkey, and declares that, if war is forced upon her, she will enter upon it with enthusiasm.

I do not think that the Government has any intention of attempting to obtain by force what was proposed at Berlin, until all means indicated by the Great Powers are exhausted, but if their hopes are deceived the country will support them in appealing to force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 203.

Extract from the "Ethnikon Pnevma" of August 30, 1879.

"L'ETHNIKON PNEVMA" du $\frac{1}{13}$ Août publie sur la question des frontières un article que nous croyons devoir résumer ainsi :—

"Nos Commissaires ont déclaré à Safvet Pacha qu'ils ne pouvaient s'écarter du Treizième Protocole du Congrès de Berlin. C'est là qu'est le point essentiel du débat. Si la réponse de la Porte est négative, les Puissances seront immédiatement saisies de la question, et l'on verra alors jusqu'à quel point elles tiennent à l'exécution du Traité de Berlin. Le Gouvernement Hellénique a agi de manière à convaincre les Puissances qu'il préfère laisser la question en suspens plutôt que de renoncer aux bénéfices du Treizième Protocole du Congrès. Des raisons d'ordre majeur lui imposant cette conduite et, en premier lieu, l'unanimité du pays sur ce sujet. La nationalité Hellénique tout entière est disposée à poursuivre l'exécution du Treizième Protocole, qui est le minimum de ses aspirations. S'il le faut, elle attendra, tout en se préparant, deux ou trois années, afin d'être à même d'en poursuivre la réalisation au moyen de ses seules forces.

"Si, pour une raison quelconque, l'Europe échoue dans son œuvre de médiation, la nation Hellénique poursuivra par ses seules forces et au prix de n'importe quel sacrifice, l'exécution du Treizième Protocole. L'Europe et la Turquie verront alors quelle perturbation la race Grecque est capable de produire en Orient. Mais nous sommes loin de croire qu'elles laisseront arriver les choses à ce point. L'œuvre du Congrès de Berlin est une œuvre de paix et de justice. Aussi ne pouvons-nous croire qu'une année après la signature du Traité, l'Europe reniera les principes sur lesquels il était basé. La race Grecque a un caractère essentiellement civilisateur qui peut se développer par la paix aussi bien que par la guerre. La conduite du Gouvernement Hellénique tend au maintien de la paix, mais si on le force à faire la guerre, il la fera avec enthousiasme."

No. 204.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 13, 1879.

ON the question of the military road for Turkey, there will most likely be so many abstentions from voting that if carried it will be by a very small majority, while it is possible those who vote for it may be a minority. Thus the privilege may be definitely lost to Turkey. To prevent this a proposition will be made that the matter shall rest where it is without proceeding to vote. May I, under these circumstances, abstain, for the interests of Turkey, from voting?

Favour me with an answer as soon as possible.

No. 205.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(Telegraphic.) *Dieppe, September* 14, 1879.

WITH reference to military road, the best answer I can give to your telegram is to leave the choice of your course entirely to your own judgment.

No. 206.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 15.)

(No. 72.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, September* 8, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose Protocols of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, No. 26 (previously forwarded) and No. 28, which contain the discussions concerning the river frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria, and I beg to offer some observations explanatory of the present stage of that question.

The term "thalweg" has acquired, in the course of negotiations respecting river frontiers, as those of the Rhine and Po, an exact meaning given in Protocol 28, page 4, paragraph 3, signifying in general terms the channel which admits throughout the largest vessels; and this meaning is given to it in many Treaties, some of which are specified in Protocol 26, page 5. But it so happens that in the Treaty which most concerns the present question, that of Adrianople, the meaning attached to it, probably from ignorance of the true one, was of an arbitrary kind, signifying apparently "middle of the river," and the Treaty proceeds thereupon to assign such islands as are found in the middle of the river, the first to the right bank, the second to the left, and so on. The distribution has, I understand, given rise to many disputes between the border States, which have never been settled. Now the adoption of the true thalweg, being a line that admits of no dispute, and conformable to that of other river frontiers, and one which would provide for the case of new islands formed in the stream, would be in every way preferable, and I therefore proposed it. But it would probably cause a certain change in the distribution of the islands to an extent not known, because the thalweg has never been ascertained, but presumably depriving Roumania of more than it gives her. This would not affect individual property in the islands, nor that of communes or States; it would affect only the rights of sovereignty, which could apparently extend only to the levying of imports, and those of the most trifling value, as the islands are uninhabited, productive of nothing but willows and herbage, and in many cases mere sandbanks.

The objection, therefore, on this ground, would appear very trifling compared with what may be urged in favour of the thalweg. But it will be seen by the Protocols that the Italian Commissioner has been anxious to reserve the rights of Roumania in these islands, and the Austrian Government (possibly in consequence of representations made by Roumania) has now, as I have just learned, desired its Commissioner to vote for the *status quo*. As my proposition has already been carried, this *status quo* can only apply to the islands in question; and the proposition to be further submitted to the Commission will probably be that the thalweg, according to its true definition, shall be the frontier line, except in the case of the islands lying in the middle of the stream, where the *status quo* shall continue. This proposition will probably be supported by the Austrian, Italian, and French Commissioners; and it will be opposed by the Russian, not because the interests of Russia are in any way involved, but because he would probably always vote for anything that might seem in any degree to the advantage of Bulgaria. He will argue that the matter is already settled by a vote which the Commission cannot disturb. This argument the French Commissioner will dispute, on the ground of his reservation made when voting, and on the discussions which have taken place since. The Italian Commissioner will probably urge that the Commission has no right under the Treaty of Berlin to abstract territory from Roumania.

For myself, the main question appears to be, what decision of the Commission will be most likely to be accepted as final, and to obviate future difficulties. If it should be made evident in the course of the discussion that the objection of Roumania would be so strong as to threaten difficulties in the settlement, I should not object to the proposed modification; but, if this should not be made evident, I should propose,

in case of the other three Commissioners voting for the thalweg pure and simple, to give that side my casting vote, especially as Her Majesty's Government has been pleased to approve of my proposal already voted on. In the alternative case, that a majority should be in favour of either proposition, I should not consider the difference between them of such importance as to render it expedient that I should appear in the minority.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 206.

Protocole No. 26.—Séance tenue à Thérapia, à l'Hôtel d'Angleterre, le 14 Août, 1879.

Etaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp,
M. le Capitaine Podstawski.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne.
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogoluhow,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha.
Simon Effendi (Papasian).
Le Commandant Hassan Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure et demie.

Le Protocole No. 25 est lu et adopté.

Le Président constate que la Commission a réglé à l'unanimité tous les points se référant à l'objet principal de sa mission, la fixation de la frontière des Balkans entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie. Avant de songer à rédiger l'acte final de ces travaux, il lui reste à donner une solution aux deux questions encore pendantes, de la frontière septentrionale de la Bulgarie et de la route militaire par le sud du Sandjak de Sophia; on ne saurait d'ailleurs prévoir le sort réservé à un acte final, qui embrasse nécessairement l'ensemble des travaux de la Commission, le Commissaire de Russie ayant déclaré qu'il ne signerait aucun instrument visant l'acte spécial de la Commission en date du 17 Décembre, 1878, fixant la nouvelle frontière Roumano-Bulgare. On ne peut d'un autre côté laisser plus longtemps en suspens tous les intérêts qui se rattachent à la fixation de la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie. Aussi le Président a-t-il cru devoir aller au devant du désir de ses collègues en faisant réunir et préparer tous les éléments d'un acte spécial, dont il soumet la minute à la Commission.

M. le Colonel Bogoluhow déclare adhérer complétement aux vues du Président: il désirerait toutefois, avant de donner sa signature, pouvoir comparer le texte avec les plans qui doivent lui être annexés. Il remarque que la feuille de Chipka, en raison de l'échelle de $\frac{1}{126000}$ adoptée, ne reproduit pas nettement toutes les inflexions du tracé de la frontière; il croit qu'il serait utile de la compléter par un plan au $\frac{1}{21000}$; peut-être même conviendrait-il d'opérer ainsi pour les autres passes. La carte au $\frac{1}{42000}$ ne peut d'ailleurs rendre les services qu'il en attendait, quand dans une précédente séance il soutenait la supériorité de la carte sur le texte. Revenant sur cette appréciation et déclarant se préoccuper surtout du travail des Commissions de Bornage,

il croit qu'il vaut mieux supprimer du texte toutes les données un peu vagues, et substituer partout à la diction "crête militaire" celle "une ligne tracée à une distance donnée de la ligne de partage."

Le Président fait observer que le texte relatif au tracé de la frontière a été adopté à l'unanimité, et ne pourrait dorénavant subir que des modifications de détail. Une carte à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{21000}$ n'offrirait pas aux Commissions de Bornage toutes les indications de détail incluses dans le texte; il faudrait, pour obtenir un tel résultat, recourir à des cartes au $\frac{1}{5000}$, et revenir par conséquent à une idée émise il y a quatre mois par le Général Hamley, et alors repoussée par le Commissaire de Russie comme devant trop ralentir la marche des travaux de la Commission.

M. le Colonel Bogoluhow insiste pour l'insertion dans l'instrument diplomatique d'une clause portant que la frontière dans les environs de la Passe de Chipka sera tracée sur un plan à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{21000}$, dont deux copies, signées par les Commissaires, seront remises aux représentants de la Bulgarie et de la Turquie dans la Commission de Bornage. Il offre à cet effet deux reproductions photographiques de la minute possédée par le Secrétariat.

Cette proposition est agréée.

M. le Colonel Bogoluhow demande ensuite à revoir le texte, afin de vérifier et de compléter les distances qui y sont inscrites.

La Commission décide que le Commissaire de Russie s'entendra à ce sujet avec le Secrétariat, et que si les modifications apportées au texte sont de nature à ne pouvoir soulever aucune difficulté, le Secrétariat fera préparer l'acte et ses annexes, pour être signés le 14 Août.

M. le Colonel de Ripp met sous les yeux de la Commission la carte du Bas-Danube à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{84000}$ dressée en 1875 par le Capitaine Autrichien Pillepich pour les besoins de la navigation.

M. le Colonel Bogoluhow, tout en reconnaissant la valeur de ce document pour la fixation générale du thalweg, ne croit pas qu'il permette de résoudre toutes les difficultés relatives à la propriété des îles. Il faudrait à son sens avoir des plans plus détaillés. Il avait jusqu'ici espéré recevoir dans un avenir prochain une carte du Danube dressée par les topographes Russes; mais les dernières communications du Général Jurnefelt lui font entrevoir de longs retards; aussi ne pouvant assigner une date précise à la remise de ces levés, et ne voulant pas ralentir la marche des travaux de la Commission, bien qu'il continue à juger une carte détaillée du Danube nécessaire aux opérations de la Commission de Bornage, il serait maintenant disposé à se rallier à la majorité de la Commission, si celle-ci était d'avis de laisser la détermination du thalweg à la Commission de Bornage, qui aurait recours à toutes les cartes existantes et nommément à la carte topographique Russe.

M. le Colonel de Ripp maintient au contraire sa manière de voir sur la nécessité qui s'impose à la Commission de fixer elle-même le thalweg. La Commission a été instituée pour procéder à la délimitation des frontières de la Bulgarie, y compris la frontière septentrionale; elle doit donner à son œuvre la forme la plus précise possible, afin de supprimer toute source de conflit entre la Principauté et les Etats voisins. C'est à ce mobile qu'elle obéissait, lorsque naguère, à propos de la frontière des Balkans, elle se décidait à annexer une carte à son travail, même dans les parties où ladite frontière suit une ligne de partage. Une telle ligne prête cependant à de bien moindres incertitudes qu'un thalweg. On n'a jamais cru qu'on pût se contenter, pour fixer la frontière d'un Etat bordé par un grand fleuve, d'indiquer d'une façon générale le thalweg sans définir sa situation par rapport aux îles, îlots, et atterrissements. Ainsi après la paix d'Andrinople le thalweg du Danube fut tracé sur une carte. Si la Commission ne procède pas aujourd'hui comme sa devancière, la Commission de Délimitation de 1830, elle fera un travail incomplet, ou se déchargera sur d'autres d'une partie de sa tâche.

M. le Général Hamley fait remarquer les différences existant entre une ligne de partage et un thalweg: tandis que celui-ci est mobile, celle-là est fixe; elle peut être jalonnée sur le terrain par des marques de bornage; elle peut en certains points posséder des propriétés tactiques.

Le Président pour permettre à la Commission de considérer les faces multiples de la question, lui fait donner lecture par un des Secrétaires de divers passages de Traités et d'actes diplomatiques relatifs à la délimitation de frontières formées par le thalweg du Rhin et celui du Pô: Traités de Paris du 30 Mai, 1814, et 20 Novembre, 1815; Acte de la Commission de Limite, conclu à Strasbourg le 30 Janvier, 1827, entre la Grand Duché de Bade; Convention de Carlsruhe entre les mêmes, du 5, Avril,

1840; Acte Final de Délimitation de la frontière Austro-Sarde de Peschiera, le 16 Juin, 1860.

Prenant ensuite la parole et se fondant sur les susdits documents, *M. le Commissaire de France* constate en premier lieu que dans la plupart de ces actes, les deux Etats directement intéressés, la France et le Grand Duché de Bade, ont été seuls appelés à débattre la frontière qui leur avait été assignée par une décision de l'Europe. Il observe en second lieu qu'on a toujours considéré la question d'une frontière fluviale comme double, question de souveraineté, question de propriété; l'une dépendant exclusivement de la situation du thalweg, l'autre plus complexe tenant compte de l'origine des îles et de leurs premiers possesseurs. Les difficultés qui se rattachent à celle-là et qui se présentent surtout dans les points où le thalweg se bifurque peuvent être résolues, après une reconnaissance des lieux, par des experts hydrographes jurés; mais pour trancher les contestations de propriété entre des tiers, il faut examiner tous les titres, et procéder à des enquêtes: c'est l'œvre d'un Tribunal arbitral. La tâche que la Commission assumerait sur elle, en s'engageant dans le règlement des droits de propriété, ne serait pas moins hérissée de difficultés que celle confiée par les Traités de 1815 aux Commissaires de France et du Grand Duché de Bade, qui consacrèrent à leur travail des années entières. Le Traité de Berlin n'a pas modifié la frontière de la Roumanie, le thalweg du Danube doit donc être fixé en prenant pour base des propriétés respectives des deux Etats, l'*uti possidetus* avant la guerre, ou mieux le travail de la Commission qui fut chargée en 1830 de déterminer conformément au Traité de Paix d'Andrinople la frontière des Principautés de Valachie et de Moldavie; la Commission ne saurait d'ailleurs pénétrer plus avant dans le détail de la question, sans avoir entre les mains toutes les pièces des procès multiples qui s'y rattachent. Comment pourrait-elle autrement formuler un jugement équitable?

M. le Colonel Orero estime que la Commission ne saurait toucher à la frontière de la Roumanie, sans avoir au préalable entendu les Représentants de cette Principauté. Il pense d'ailleurs qu'on doit, pour ne pas s'engager dans un dédale de difficultés inombrables, arrêter que les îles jusqu'ici Roumaines continueront d'appartenir à la Roumanie, et que les îles anciennement Turques seront, au contraire, dévolues à la Bulgarie, et s'en remettre pour la détermination du thalweg à une Commission Mixte formée des Représentants des deux Etats.

M. le Général Hamley ne juge pas que la Commission ait qualité pour se livrer à l'examen de titres de propriété.

M. le Colonel de Ripp croit que personne ne pourrait produire de tels actes pour les îles.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow ajoute que la possession de certaines d'entr'elles a donné lieu à des contestations qui sont encore pendantes.

Après cette discussion, *M. le Colonel de Ripp* formule la proposition suivante:—

"Au nord, la frontière de la Bulgarie suit le thalweg du Danube depuis l'ancienne frontière de Serbie jusqu'à la frontière de la province Roumaine de la Dobroudja, en laissant à la Roumanie les îles dont les noms suivent . . . . . et à la Bulgarie les îles ci-après nommées, ... Un croquis ci-annexé, établi d'après les documents les plus récents, indique le thalweg qui forme la limite de souveraineté des deux Principautés."

Le Commissaire de France propose, de son côté, que, le thalweg formant la limite de souveraineté entre les deux Principautés, la propriété des îles soit réglée en prenant pour base les indications du Traité d'Andrinople.

M. le Général Hamley demande à son tour que la Commission se prononce sur le texte suivant:

"Au nord la frontière suit le thalweg du Danube entre l'ancienne frontière de Serbie et la frontière de la Province Roumaine de la Dobroudja, tel qu'il sera reconnu et déterminé par une première entente entre les deux Etats intéressés, et successivement dans des vérifications périodiques."

La proposition du *Colonel de Ripp* mise aux voix est repoussée par 4 voix contre 3—celles des Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne motive son vote en disant que ses instructions lui ont prescrit de donner le thalweg du Danube pour frontière nord à la Bulgarie: il croit que cette ligne diffère actuellement de celle figurée sur la carte de 1830, et il jugerait par conséquent utile que la Commission procédât à la fixation d'une frontière qui pourrait s'écarter sensiblement de l'ancienne.

Le Commissaire de France et après lui les *Commissaires de Grande Bretagne, d'Italie* et de *Turquie* fondent leur vote contraire sur l'impossibilité pour la Commission de

trancher toutes les questions techniques et juridiques de détail que soulève la fixation d'une frontière fluviale; ils croient qu'il suffit d'établir les principes.

Le Commissaire de France retire ensuite sa proposition, se réservant de la reproduire après l'adoption de la proposition plus large du Commissaire de Grande Bretagne.

Cette dernière proposition est enfin adoptée par 5 voix contre 2 abstentions—celles des Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie, celui-ci se ralliant ensuite à la majorité.

Avant de poursuivre la discussion, plusieurs membres demandent à connaître les stipulations du Traité d'Andrinople concernant la propriété des îles du Danube.

Le Président invite en conséquence les Commissaires de Russie et de Turquie à rechercher le texte de ce Traité, et il ajourne la suite du débat à une séance ultérieure, la prochaine séance fixée au 14 Août devant être exclusivement consacrée à la signature de l'Acte réglant la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale.

M. le Colonel Orero prie ensuite le Commissaire Ottoman de faire connaître la route d'étapes par le sud du Sandjak de Sophia, qu'il se propose de demander à la Commission, en se fondant sur le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha ne juge pas utile de se prononcer sur ce point, avant que la Commission ait traité la question de compétence.

La séance est levée à 5 heures.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) P. PODSTAWSKI.
G. MARMIER.
F. VIGINO-PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 206.

[See Inclosure in No. 249.]

No. 207.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 15.*)

(No. 73.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, September 8, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Major Ardagh (whose work has probably been delayed by bad weather) telegraphed last week to tell me that he had met the Russian topographers on the mountain, who had sent in to their Director the map of a part of the line which he was about to end with, and asking for instructions. I desired him to return without delay, and expect him at once.

Meanwhile, the Russian Commissioner informed me yesterday that he had just received the whole of the map of the Cadir-Tepe frontier. Major Ardagh's work at this point will thus be forestalled; but I have no doubt that the dispatch of his party has accelerated the Russian work, as is evident from the fact that Colonel Bogolubow desired the Commission to adjourn its proceedings to the 20th September, as the earliest date which he could fix for the production of the maps; while there is a general impression that, if the Russians had been left to themselves, the time of waiting might have been indefinitely prolonged.

The production of the copies will take to about the 17th instant. In the meantime, the question of the thalweg will most likely be settled. There will then only remain to conclude the proceedings respecting the military route to be conceded to Turkey; after which, I presume I may leave for England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

P.S.—Duplicates will be made of the Cadir-Tepe sheet, for the completion of the Bulgaro-Roumanian as well as for the Bulgaro-Macedonian frontier.

E. B. H.

No. 208.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 426.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 8, 1879.*

COUNT KALNOKY inquired of me to-day whether I had yet been instructed to make any communication to the Russian Government in reply to their last proposal respecting Arab-Tabia.

On my replying that your Lordship had not yet instructed me to do anything in this matter, Count Kalnoky told me that, in compliance with a telegram from Vienna, he had informed Baron Jomini that, although the Austro-Hungarian Government still consider that the Commission for the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontier is the proper one to decide the point in dispute at Arab-Tabia, and although Count Andrassy is fully convinced of the complete impartiality of that Commission, which the Russian Government has seemed to doubt, nevertheless Austria would not refuse to accept the last Russian proposal of referring the question to a technical Commission of Engineers, provided this arrangement is accepted by the other Powers, and provided it shall be agreed, in some form or other, that the decision of the majority shall be accepted as finally disposing of this long-contested point.

Baron Jomini promised to forward this communication to Livadia; but he gave Count Kalnoky to understand that the Emperor was steadfastly opposed to referring such a vital question to the decision of any majority, and that he had no expectation that His Imperial Majesty would ever agree to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 209.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 434. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 9, 1879.*

HAVING inquired of Baron de Jomini this afternoon what he thought of the substitution in Austria of Baron de Haymerle for Count Andrassy, his Excellency expressed himself as very little pleased with it.

He had seen a good deal of Baron de Haymerle at Berlin during the Congress, and had noticed in him a fondness for petty detail unworthy of a statesman.

As an instance of this, Baron de Jomini went on to assure me that most of the annoyances to which Russia has been exposed in the various Delimitation Commissions have arisen from expressions insidiously inserted in the Protocols and Treaty by Baron Haymerle, but apparently so innocent that they had at the time escaped the notice of Count Schouvaloff.

There is general dissatisfaction expressed among Russians at the nomination of Baron Haymerle, founded, I think, mainly on the fears that his intimate knowledge of Turkish affairs may seriously retard the success of their designs on that country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 210.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 436.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 9, 1879.*

I CALLED this afternoon on Baron Jomini to urge, in compliance with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 182 of the 2nd instant,

that instructions should be sent to Colonel Philippow to hasten as much as possible the completion of the map which he had been requested to make for the use of the Commission for the delimitation of the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia.

I said that, although Her Majesty's Government did not consider it absolutely indispensable that this map should be attached to the final act of delimitation, provided the frontier were accurately described, its presence would undoubtedly render the work more complete.

When the Commissioners agreed to intrust to the Russian topographers the duty of surveying the line of frontier through the Rhodope Mountain district, it was understood that, with five topographers, the work would be completed at latest by the $\frac{2nd}{15th}$ August; whereas now, although Colonel Philippow has eight topographers at work, he had informed the Commission that the map could not be completed till the $\frac{16th}{28th}$ September.

As this delay was much to be regretted, and as it seemed to arise from the fact that the Russian topographers were making a more elaborate map than would be required merely for the purpose of the Commission, Her Majesty's Government hoped that the Imperial Government would send instructions to Colonel Philippow to complete the survey without further delay.

Baron Jomini replied that Colonel Philippow had no doubt expected to have finished this work sooner; but the action of the topographers had been hampered by various causes, more especially by the hostile treatment they had received from some of the Turkish inhabitants with whom they were brought in contact.

His Excellency promised, however, to refer your Lordship's wishes to M. de Giers at Livadia, and would suggest that he should communicate with Colonel Philippow on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 211.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 437.)
My Lord; *St. Petersburgh, September 9, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 426 of yesterday, I have the honour to report that Baron de Jomini inquired of me to-day whether I had not received any instructions from your Lordship respecting the last Russian proposal to refer the disputed point at Arab-Tabia to a Special Commission of Engineers, adding that answers more or less favourable had already been received from all the Governments except those of Great Britain and of Germany.

I replied that I had not yet seen your Lordship's final decision, nor had I received any instructions; but, from what I knew of your Lordship's views, I believed that your Lordship did not regard their proposal with favour. Her Majesty's Government consider that the Bulgarian Delimitation Commission is the proper one to decide this question under the Treaty of Berlin, and that, even supposing they could put this aside, they could see no use in referring the matter to any other Commission, unless it was agreed that all parties must abide by the decision of a majority.

Baron de Jomini said this was too important a question to be left to the hazard of a majority.

I said that, in that case, I failed to see how the affair was ever to be arranged, and that the nomination of an extra Commission would only be a waste of time.

Baron de Jomini then threw out hints that, if it was only a question of the greater expense which the bridge at the Russian point would entail over one built at the point suggested by the other members of the Commission, this might be met by some special arrangement, giving pecuniary assistance to Roumania to the extent of this extra expenditure.

I inquired where the money was to come from? Did he expect the European Powers would consent to advance money for any such purpose when the whole difficulty was raised by the solitary opposition of Russia to the decisions of all the other Powers interested?

Baron de Jomini then said he alluded to Bulgaria, which, as deeply interested in the position of the bridge, might fairly be called upon to bear part of the expenditure.

I only replied that such an arrangement seemed to me to be most undesirable, and the matter dropped.

I would not have troubled your Lordship with these details if it had not been that the Austrian Minister had warned me beforehand that I might expect some such language from Baron de Jomini, as his Excellency had sounded him lately on the matter.

Count Kalnocky, however, had gathered, from what Baron de Jomini had said to him, that the money for this purpose might, if necessary, be advanced by Russia herself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 212.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 579.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 11, 1879.*

THE occupation of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar appears to be so far peacefully carried out, though with every military precaution.

A telegram from the Duke of Würtemberg, dated last night, states that the column of Major-General Killies arrived yesterday, at half-past 8 in the morning, before Plewlje, and marched, with bands playing, through the town.

A Turkish battalion was drawn up in its honour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 213.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 446. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, September 12, 1879.*

I HAD an opportunity of speaking this morning to M. de Radowitz about the Arab-Tabia question; and on my asking his Excellency whether the Russian proposal to submit it to a Commission of Civil Engineers had come before the German Government, and, if so, whether it had been found acceptable, he answered me in very much the same terms as he used when I last alluded to this subject, as reported in my No. 405 of the 10th ultimo.

The Russian Chargé d'Affaires had, M. de Radowitz said, suggested this plan of referring the matter to a technical Commission; but he had been told that Germany was not sufficiently interested in the question to induce her to take a leading part in the discussion. If other Powers agreed to accept the plan Germany would certainly raise no objection to it, just as she would have been equally ready to co-operate with the Powers had they decided to let either the Bulgarian or Servian Commission deal with the question in dispute.

Upon my remarking that the chief difficulty in the case seemed to be Russia's objection to admit the principle of a decision by a majority of votes, whatever might be the character of the Commission which had to determine the best place for the bridge, M. de Radowitz did not deny that this principle possessed great advantages, and even went so far as to say that, personally, he thought its adoption would facilitate an arrangement; but he added that, upon this point also, the German Government would not be inclined to volunteer any positive opinion, preferring to leave both it and the question relating to the Commission in the hands of the Governments more interested than they themselves were.

After leaving the Foreign Office, I had occasion to call upon the Italian Ambassador, and alluded to the subject of Arab-Tabia, without, however, mentioning my conversation with M. de Radowitz.

Count de Launay considered that the Italian Government had come to the determination of accepting the last Russian proposal, always supposing it was agreed to by the other Powers; and his Excellency believed that this was the view taken of it by the German Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 214.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 449. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, September 13, 1879.*

WHEN I was at the Foreign Office yesterday I asked M. de Radowitz whether he had heard anything from Constantinople lately upon the subject of the Greek Frontier question. He said he had not; and upon my further inquiring whether Germany was still in favour of Janina being included within the territory to be ceded to Greece, his Excellency replied that this was a point on which the Powers would not necessarily, for the moment, be required to offer an opinion, as negotiations were now going on between the Turkish and Greek Delegates; but that in the event of it being brought at a later date under their consideration, Germany would unquestionably consider herself bound to follow whatever course was adopted by France as regards the new frontier.

She could not loyally act otherwise; and although Germany was under no obligation to go further than France in the matter, she would certainly not hesitate to go as far.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 215.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15, 11·55 A.M.)

(No. 150.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 15, 1879, 10·49 A.M.*

AUSTRIAN troops peaceably occupied Prijepolje yesterday. Population quiet.

No. 216.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15, 4·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, September 15, 1879, 2·50 P.M.*

DISTURBANCES reported at Mevesine, in the Herzegovina. Collision between troops and Christian peasants.

I cannot obtain details at present.

No. 217.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hanley.

(Telegraphic.) *Dieppe, September 15, 1879.*

MILITARY road. Unless your majority is hopelessly lost upon this question, it may be wise to make a bargain on it. Russian Government care greatly about it. Confer with Colonel Clarke, Asiatic Commissioner, and see whether some concession on the Asiatic boundary may not be obtained in consideration of not pressing military road.

No. 218.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 15, 1879, 5 P.M.*

ASCERTAIN view of French Government on point raised in Mr. Gould's telegram repeated to you in my telegram No. 152 of to-day.

No. 219.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1156.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 15, 1879.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 152 of this day's date, in which I repeated to you Mr. Gould's telegram No. 47 of the 11th instant, I have to request you to ascertain the view taken by the French Government as to the expediency of dealing with the question of Jewish emancipation at once, by an extraordinary Skuptchina convoked for the purpose of passing the necessary measure, or of allowing the Minister for Foreign Affairs to choose his own time for action in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 219*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Bartholomei.

Dear M. Bartholomei, *Foreign Office, September* 15, 1879.

THE Government of Her Majesty are very anxious to contribute, so far as lies in their power, to the early settlement of the questions you have been good enough to bring under their notice. I was unable to give a definite answer to the proposition which you laid before me a short time ago, because I did not fully comprehend its purport. I am not sure that even now I clearly understand the proposition which is contained in your letter of last Wednesday, and to which it appears that the Imperial Government has obtained the consent of the other Cabinets.

If the Imperial Government wishes that a Commission of civil engineers should examine the localities to the east of Silistria suitable for the construction of a railway bridge over the Danube, and should report upon the fitness of each for that purpose, giving all the details which are required for forming a judgment upon the question, and if the other Cabinets are disposed to accede to this idea, Her Majesty's Government will not refuse their assent, although they see no reason for distrusting the opinion which the military engineers have already formed upon the matter. But they can only concur in this proceeding if it is one from which a definitive settlement can be expected; and their assent, therefore, must be conditional on the acceptance by the Cabinets of the provision that, when this Report of the civil engineers has been made, the ultimate decision shall be taken by a majority of votes either of the International Commision or of the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 220.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 31. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, August* 26, 1879.

A PRINTED slip has recently been forwarded to me by your Lordship, being a copy of Her Majesty's Ambassador's despatch No. 5, dated Therapia, the 7th May, 1879, inclosing translation of a document communicated to his Excellency by the Porte, stating that seven of the persons concerned in the outrages at Kodoortchoor have been condemned to death.

Your Lordship is doubtless aware that, when a man is condemned to death in this country, it by no means follows that he will be executed, and your Lordship will therefore not be surprised to learn that none of the seven men have been executed, nor is there, as far as I am aware, the slightest intention of carrying the sentence into effect, although the Imperial Commissioners have informed me that shortly after their arrival they recommended to the Sublime Porte that the capital sentence should be executed.

The Commissioners have received no reply to their proposals.

The condemned men are all confined here in the Central Gaol.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 221.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 32. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, August* 26, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a telegraphic despatch from the Vali of Van, announcing Captain Clayton's arrival there on the 14th instant.

Captain Clayton's arrival was preceded by a few days only by that of Major Kamsaragan, the Russian Acting Vice-Consul. It was originally proposed that that gentleman should accompany Captain Clayton on his journey from here to Van, but a short time prior to the day fixed for the start Major Kamsaragan announced that his departure must unavoidably be deferred owing to the non-arrival of some clothes from Kars. He left Erzeroum a few days after Captain Clayton, but as he went by the direct route, whereas Captain Clayton made a detour in order to visit the towns of Murch and Bitlis, Major Kamsaragan was the first to arrive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 222.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 33. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, August* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have just received a few lines from Captain Clayton from Van, dated the 16th instant.

He states that "the state of the country round Bitlis is very bad as regards the Kurds, who do just what they please, and there is no one to restrain them. The day I left Bitlis, on the road I took a short time previously, five persons were attacked and robbed within an hour of the town. In the immediate neighbourhood of this place matters seem just a little better, but four or five hours off the Kurds are just as bad, or worse, for they openly defy authority. I hear they burnt a mill two days ago, saying to the owner, "Now go and complain to the Europeans, who are coming."

Captain Clayton expects to remain about a fortnight in Van, when he will proceed to the Nestorian country, in accordance with the instructions I have given him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 223.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 215.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 4, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a partial, and not altogether correct, account of a riot which occurred in this town on Sunday evening.

This account is extracted from the "Philippopoulis."

I shall have the honour to send to your Lordship to-morrow a more accurate version of this lamentable affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 223.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of September 3, 1879.

UNE rixe sanglante et qui pourra avoir les plus fâcheuses conséquences eut lieu, Dimanche dernier, à 10 heures de la nuit, dans un quartier de notre ville, exclusivement habité par des familles Musulmanes, et par quelques Chrétiens en nombre très-restreint. Ce quartier est connu sous le nom de Hadji Hassan Mahalessi.

Il y a plusieurs versions sur cette affaire; celle que nous allons donner nous paraît la plus autorisée, parce que nous la tenons de source authentique. Voici donc comme on conte la chose.

A l'heure sus-indiquée, un bekdji (gardien de nuit) passait près de la maison d'un hodja (santon Turc) répondant au nom de Kara-Hafouz Effendi.

Au moment où le gardien en question se trouvait sous les fenêtres du hodja, il reçu sur la tête, mais sans lui faire de mal, les éclats d'une bouteille. Cela suffit pour mettre notre noctambule dans une colère rouge, parce qu'il crut que l'intention du hodja était de l'offenser. Il sortit donc un sifflet de sa poche, et commença à appeler à son secours. A ce signal convenu un gendarme accourut, accompagné d'une autre personne. Après s'être concertés pendant quelques secondes, ces trois individus se mirent en devoir de forcer la porte de la maison. Une fois qu'elle eût cédé à leur coups, ils se ruèrent sur le malheureux Effendi qu'ils traînèrent hors de chez lui, malgré ses protestations et les cris de son harem. "Nous allons vous mener au poste le plus voisin," lui dirent-ils; mais chemin faisant, au lieu de se diriger vers le corps de garde, ils enfilèrent des ruelles étroites et tortueuses. Cette promenade nocturne à travers de véritables coupe-gorge, et en compagnie de si aimables camarades, donna à réfléchir au Turc; il supposa, non sans raison, qu'on allait lui jouer quelque vilain tour. Il guetta donc le moment où ses compagnons s'attendaient le moins pour prendre la poudre d'escampette, en criant au secours de toute la force de ses poumons. Ses vociférations donnèrent l'éveil à une patrouille de passage par-là qui lui barra le chemin. Le bekdji et ses compagnons ne tardèrent pas à venir sur les lieux, et Kara Hafouz se trouva ainsi remis entre les mains des agents de police, qui, avant de le conduire au poste, ne manquèrent pas de le régaler de quelques coups de crosse, dont il porte encore les marques. Une fois au corps de garde, le Yuz-Bachi constata, après mûr examen, son innocence, et ordonna qu'il fut reconduit à son domicile sous bonne escorte. A son retour, le hodja trouva tout chez lui sens dessus dessous. Pendant son absence son harem dût subir les affronts de nouveaux arrivants, qui étaient accourus aux cris poussés par les femmes et aux pleurs de la marmaille. Comme vous devez bien penser, Kara Hafouz, outragé dans ce qu'il avait de plus sacré au monde, sortit de son caractère habituel, et donna libre cours à sa colère, arrivée au paroxisme.

La présence de la patrouille mit, pour ainsi dire, le feu aux poudres. Au lieu de chercher à apaiser le tumulte, les agents de police ne faisaient que l'exciter en donnant à droite et à gauche des coups de crosse aux Musulmans, qui s'étaient rassemblés en un clin d'œil, pour prêter main-forte à leur coreligionnaire. Ceux-ci, se voyant ainsi provoqués, répondirent aux attaques de leurs ennemis en leur envoyant tout ce qui leur tombait sous la main.

Le plus fort de l'action eut lieu, nous assure-t-on, dans l'enceinte d'une mosquée, envahie par la foule, où les combattants, pris corps à corps, présentaient le spectacle le plus navrant, éclairé par la lumière douteuse de la lune.

Dans cette échauffourée, les Musulmans, qui ne se servirent, croyons-nous, d'aucune espèce d'armes, eurent cinquante hommes plus ou moins gravement blessés; quant aux Bulgares, leurs blessés n'atteignent pas ce chiffre, mais ils ont à regretter la mort d'un des leurs, qui n'a pu survivre à ses blessures.

Ainsi se termina la scène dont le quartier Hadji Hassan Mahalessi fut Dimanche passé le théâtre.

Nous nous faisons un devoir de louer dans cette circonstance l'activité et la présence d'esprit de notre Chef de Police qui, secondé par le Capitaine Ouzatis, parvint, après avoir dispersé la foule, à rétablir la tranquillité.

No. 224.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 216.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 4, 1879.

I BEG to inclose herewith two leading articles which appeared respectively in the "Maritza" of the 2nd and the "Narodni Glas" of the 1st instant. They agree in professing the highest esteem and admiration for Baron de Ring, the French Delegate on the European Commission, though admitting that "he has not always defended opinions of a nature to satisfy the Bulgarians," and hinting that his persisting in such a course might gain for France "the hatred of a small nation," which at present "loves, blesses, and reveres her."

These articles, appearing as they do almost simultaneously in the Bulgarian journals of this town, are evidently inspired from the same source; and their object is

clearly to regain, by an appeal to French love of popularity, the support of the French Delegates in the establishment of Bulgarian supremacy in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 225.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 221.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 5, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 215 of yesterday's date, I beg to submit to your Lordship the following rectified version of the affray which took place in this town on Sunday evening, the 31st ultimo:—

About one hour after sunset three Bulgarian militiamen, wishing to enter a house of ill-fame in the Hadji Hassan Mahallé quarter, and, being refused admittance, tried to effect an entrance by breaking into an adjoining house, inhabited by a Turk named Mehmedoglou Hassan.

The militiamen, not finding in that house the usual back door communication with the house they wished to enter, and, being drunk, beat Hassan's wife, and then forced an entrance into the neighbouring house, occupied by Turkish refugee villagers. Here they began to beat and ill-treat the inmates, mostly women, who raised such an outcry that their neighbours were alarmed and came to their assistance.

Finding themselves surrounded by Turks, the militiamen in their turn likewise raised an alarm, calling upon their co-religionists to rescue them from the Mussulmans. A crowd of Bulgarians speedily assembled and made their way into the house, where they fell upon the Turkish men and women and beat them indiscriminately. The Turks made some slight resistance, but were overpowered on the arrival of a body of militia, infantry and cavalry, who used their bayonets and swords amongst them, and even fired some shots, which wounded several Turks. They also arrested a certain number of the latter.

The Turks on this occasion appear to have acted entirely on the defensive.

The incident mentioned in the "Philippoupolis" as having occurred in the house of a certain Hafouz Efendi, and as having given rise to the affray, was quite an independent affair, having occurred later in the evening and in another quarter of the town.

The affray, which the Bulgarians attribute to Mussulman aggression, has resulted for the present in increased ill-treatment of the Turkish population.

Some thirty or forty Turks (many of them wounded) have been imprisoned for defending themselves against the militia, and other Turks who sustained injuries on this occasion are, I am told, afraid to call in a doctor for fear of incurring the penalty of arrest.

Aleko Pasha has appointed the Greek member of the Superior Court to conduct an inquiry into this incident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 226.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 222.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 6, 1879.

I CALLED upon Aleko Pasha yesterday morning at his country seat, in order to give an account to his Excellency of what I had seen in the neighbouring department.

The Exarch was present, and took part in the conversation which ensued.

The Governor-General expressed much indignation against the Prefect of Tatar-Bazardjik for having failed to report to him circumstances with which he was, as usual, first made acquainted by the English Consul-General. His Excellency vowed, in warm language, that the Prefect was a traitor, and should instantly be dismissed and tried for his misconduct.

The Exarch encouraged his Excellency to take such a course, stating that he knew the Prefect to be entirely in the hands of certain persons, whose names he could divulge.

I observed that his Beatitude evidently referred to the Agents of the "National Committee," who were also, according to my own information, the real administrators of the department, backed, as they were, by a strong force of gymnasts; and I took advantage of the opportunity in order to point out once more to his Excellency that his authority was superseded all over the province by an occult Government, which would certainly involve the country in a great disaster if he continued to tolerate its existence.

This led the conversation to the subject of the Gymnastic Societies, and I communicated to the Governor-General the tenour of the Declaration I had made at the last meeting of the Commission.

The Exarch acknowledged the evil of the existence of those societies, but urged that it would be impossible to dissolve them without bloodshed. His Beatitude thought a scheme might be devised by which the "gymnasts" could be gradually absorbed into the local militia. The Governor-General concurred in that opinion.

I pointed out to his Excellency that one of the first steps in that direction should be the immediate application of Article 370 of the Organic Statute, to which the attention of his Excellency had already been called by the Commission. The object of that Article was to bring within the ranks of the local forces conscripts drawn from all classes of the population, and not, as at present, from its Bulgarian section alone.

The Exarch also thought that several lians of conscripts might be called in, say for fifteen years in advance, and the surplus of the men required for the militia formed into a reserve, which would thus absorb a still further number of men belonging to the Gymnastic Societies. The remainder might then be deprived of their arms.

Without committing myself to the approval of any particular plan, I appealed in the most earnest manner to the Governor-General to give his serious attention to the subject of the Gymnastic Societies and the National Committee, which was connected with those organizations. I advised the Governor-General that he should at once prevent the spread of the association, as it had come to my knowledge that some Roman Catholic Bulgarians, inhabiting a village in the Balkans, were at the present moment being coerced by provincial functionaries into joining the Gymnastic Society and accepting its arms. I further endeavoured to impress both the Exarch and the Governor-General with the gravity of the present condition of the province, and warned them, on the strength of convictions derived from personal observation, that blood would begin to flow again in this unhappy province if the local Administration continued in its present course of inaction as regards the grievances of the Turkish population, and more especially of the refugees, who had returned in such large numbers, and who, in addition to the wrongs which they suffered at the hands of the Bulgarians, were threatened with famine during the coming winter months.

At the same time I pointed out that, strictly speaking, it was no part of my duty to intercede in favour of the Turkish subjects of the Sultan in Eastern Roumelia, and that I was risking my popularity, both with the Administration and certain Bulgarian patriots, by making frequent representations on the subject of the evils that came under my personal knowledge. My courtyard was daily filled with Mussulmans entreating me to protect them against violence and wrong of every description; and it was certainly a very abnormal and lamentable state of things that the Governor-General should, as he had again stated to me, only know what was going on under his very eyes from the British Consul-General.

Such a state of affairs, I declared, could not last; and if the Governor-General and the Exarch had the same horror of a certain contingency as I had myself—a contingency which my own Government equally dreaded—they should at once adopt the most rigorous measures for the establishment of justice and contentment in this province.

The Exarch expressed his gratitude to me for exposing the condition of the Turkish population, and assured me that all sensible Bulgarians would consider me their best friend if I continued to do so.

I replied that it was impossible for me to act as a Turkish Representative. It was for the Governor-General to ascertain that condition, and to remedy it; and I suggested that his Excellency should appoint a Turkish Secretary, charged with the receipt of petitions and the giving of aid and advice to Turkish complainants, more especially as all the Turks who came to me affirmed that they were not allowed to approach the Governor-General, and that whenever they had presented petitions to subordinate officials, who are mostly Bulgarians, no action was taken on them, or, at all events, no result had ensued.

The Exarch strongly recommended the Governor-General to adopt my advice in this matter, and his Excellency promised to do so.

Before leaving I reverted to the question of the searching of Turkish refugees, and mentioned to his Excellency that the orders which he had given, in accordance with a promise made to me at our last interview, had not been obeyed for three days, and that yesterday the searching had been recommenced at Philippopoli more actively than ever; while I had learnt at Tatar-Bazardjik that there had been no cessation whatever in the unjust, shameful, and ignominious treatment of the refugees in that respect. I said it was a grievance of which the Turks loudly complained, and that similar proceedings in Bulgaria had, according to a newspaper report, evoked strong remonstrances on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

Aleko Pasha once more declared that those proceedings were unjust, and should be put a stop to.

On my return to town I found the usual concourse of Turks at the Consulate, with a fresh list of grievances, which they besought me to redress.

Their complaints were of such a grave character that I considered it my duty to take the men with me to the Secretary-General. I spoke to that official in very much the same language as I had used to Aleko Pasha, adding that this would be the last time I should urge him to take measures for the protection of the Turks. If the Local Administration failed to take warning from what was going on around them they must bear the consequences of their continued inactivity, namely, effective extraneous interference, a result which they will have deserved and brought down on their own heads.

Taking up my observation that the Turks were being driven to desperation, and might, therefore, rise against their oppressors, M. Christoviez said they could not do that because they had no arms. I replied to this that desperate men who sought death required no weapons.

He then questioned the complainants in my presence, and their statements having been translated to me by Mr. Simmons, I found that they were of special gravity and import. Some Bulgarians had threatened them with a general massacre, and had boasted that 50,000 Russian troops would assist in clearing the province of all Turks. Under this head the complainants boldly told the Secretary-General that they had replied that they wished for nothing better than the return of the Russian troops, for during the Russian occupation of the province Turkish lives and property had been comparatively safe.

All the men declared to the Secretary-General that they could not endure their position any longer. The Bulgarians would not surrender their houses or property; Turks were being daily assailed by militiamen in broad daylight, while at night armed men broke into their houses and robbed and ill-treated them. A great number of Mussulmans had been wounded in the affray on Sunday last, and many had been seized and imprisoned as rioters on the evidence of wounds and bruises. A still greater number of Turks were lying in their houses with their wounds undressed, because they were afraid of their condition becoming known to the police authorities.

One complainant from the neighbourhood of Tatar-Bazardjik had petitioned the local Government a week or ten days ago, and having heard nothing of the result was afraid to return to his village. A boy had had his arm cut off by a Bulgarian, and when he ran away the Bulgarian overtook him and chopped off his head, after which he quartered him, and boasted of that deed to his co-religionists.

After the Secretary-General had promised the men that he would look into their complaints if they would draw up petitions, Mr. Simmons told them on my behalf that I was a British official, and could do nothing for them. Their natural and legal protector was Aleko Pasha, the Representative of the Sultan, whom I had seen that day, and who had assured me that he was determined to see justice done to the Turkish population.

M. Christoviez was also a high Ottoman functionary, who, as they must have perceived, took a deep interest in their welfare, and would certainly do all he could to protect them.

The Secretary-General corroborated this; and, in conclusion, I advised the Turks to remain perfectly quiet—to abstain even from returning blows; and that the more blows they got, and the worse they were treated, the better it would eventually be for them; for if the Local Administration should find it impossible to afford due protection, Europe would certainly adopt the necessary measures for that object.

I added that all their complaints should be addressed to the Government, not to me, and that they must tell their comrades that they must no longer come to this Consulate.

In saying this, I was aware that no prohibition on my part would deter the Turks from applying to me; but my object was to prove to the Secretary-General that I was anxious not to interfere with the proper functions of the Local Administration, or to encourage complaints on the part of the Turks.

My anticipations have proved correct, for my courtyard is to-day fuller than ever of Turkish petitioners.

I regret to state to your Lordship that the Governor-General's alleged ignorance of what was taking place at Tatar-Bazardjik is at variance with the following facts:—

The Secretary-General told me that he had telegraphed yesterday to the Prefect of that Department to ask for information as to the fires and outrages; and, from further information which I obtained yesterday, it appears that both the Secretary-General and the Governor-General had, on the 4th instant, been in full possession of the facts which I had brought with me, and which I had on the latter date communicated to General Strecker.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 227.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 223.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Ottoman Commissioners left this morning for Constantinople, and that they will be followed by the remaining Commissioners early next week.

Prince Tzeretelew intends to apply for leave of absence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 228.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 224.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 6, 1879.

AT the last meeting of the Commission, M. Schmidt presented an account of his administration of the finances of this province under the authority of the Commission.

The balance sheets were accompanied by an interesting Report on the circumstances under which M. Schmidt has fulfilled his duties, as well as on the results which he had attained.

All these documents will appear in the *compte-rendu*, which I shall have the honour to transmit to your Lordship in a few days.

The Commission expressed its great satisfaction at the manner in which the finances had been administered by M. Schmidt, and gave him an unanimous vote of thanks.

The temporary President also read at the same meeting a letter which had been addressed to him by Aleko Pasha, giving the Commission a complete discharge in respect to their management of the finances up to the date of the transfer of the latter to the Local Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 229.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 225.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 6, 1879.

HAVING made inquiries in respect to the proceedings of the Tribunals established under the Organic Statute, I discovered that they had omitted to conform to Article VIII,

which requires that justice shall be rendered in the name of the Sultan, with the evident object of asserting the sovereignty of His Majesty in this province.

A non-Bulgarian member of the principal Court at Philippopoli having drawn attention to that omission, his colleagues affirmed that a formula mentioning the name of the Sultan was only intended to be applied to cases in which Turks were concerned.

I therefore made at the last meeting of the Commission the Declaration of which I inclose a copy, and to which nearly all my colleagues adhered, conditionally on the omission being a fact, since they had no information themselves on the subject.

I thought it all the more necessary to animadvert in strong terms on this violation of the Statute of the Tribunals, since many complaints have reached me of their partiality in favour of the Bulgarian portion of the population.

At the principal Court to which I have referred, the non-Bulgarian member has not been able on that account to subscribe to a single judgment given by the majority of his colleagues.

The Bulgarians of this province are, in fact, doing their utmost to convert the Tribunals, like every other institution created under the Organic Statute, into a political engine.

In addition to this, there is a general ignorance of the principles of law, there being scarcely any persons in Eastern Roumelia who have had the advantage of a legal training.

The appointment of M. Kessiakoff to the Directorship of Justice not having been confirmed by the Porte, that Department is temporarily administered by the Director of Public Instruction, whose previous calling had been that of a schoolmaster.

Under these circumstances, it is obviously the interest of the province, and indeed of paramount necessity, that the Porte should insist on the nomination of a person learned in the law to the vacant directorship; and the acknowledged success of M. Schmidt ought to induce even the most ardent Pan-Bulgarians to submit to the selection of an alien, on the same terms as M. Schmidt, until the province is in a position to produce lawyers of its own.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 229.

Declaration.

L'ARTICLE 8 du Statut Organique stipule que "La justice est rendue dans la Roumélie Orientale au nom du Sultan."

Cependant, les Tribunaux de la province, dans les sentences qu'ils prononcent, ne font aucune mention du nom de Sa Majesté.

En appelant l'attention de mes honorables collègues sur ce fait, je déclare qu'une pareille violation de l'Article 8 du Statut Organique est d'autant plus frappante que les Tribunaux devraient être les premiers à donner l'exemple de la soumission aux lois du pays.

No. 230.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 226.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of the Declaration which I have been authorized by your Lordship to make on the subject of the Gymnastic Societies in this province.

As I had given no notice of my intention to make such a Declaration, the rules adopted by the Commission prevented any discussion being taken upon it, but each Delegate gave his opinion at some length when called upon by the President to state whether he gave his adherence to the Declaration or otherwise.

In anticipation of the *compte-rendu*, I may state to your Lordship that, with the exception of the Russian Delegate, the Commission were unanimous in condemning

the existence of those societies, on the ground principally of the danger they presented to public safety.

A majority was also of opinion that the societies were illegal, although the persons who belonged to them must be considered as acting *bonâ fide*, especially as their acts must be known to the Local Administration.

On the latter grounds M. Cingria, the Acting Austro-Hungarian Commissioner, unfortunately stated that in his opinion the existence of those societies was not "illicit," although he also said there could be no doubt of their danger, considering that the gymnasts formed a corps of 40,000 rifles alongside of a regular force far inferior in strength.

Prince Tzeretelew maintained at the meeting that the societies were not "illegal," but he did not allow that opinion to be reproduced in the *compte-rendu*. He also said the gymnasts had done no harm, and that they never carried their arms when not mustered for exercise.

I pointed out that the latter statement was entirely at variance with my personal observations, and from the attitude of the other Commissioners when this statement was made, he must have observed that the facts were considered to be otherwise by all his colleagues.

As regards the legality of the societies on the ground of their having been sanctioned by the Russian Government, I observed that the arrangement made by the Russian military authorities while in occupation of this province could not override the clear stipulations of the Organic Statute and the law of the Ottoman Empire which I had cited in my Declaration.

By the same reasoning the Tribunals and administrative institutions introduced by those authorities might also claim the right to exist in defiance of the Statute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 230.

Déclaration.

LES lois de l'Empire Ottoman, qui restent en vigueur dans la Roumélie Orientale, pour autant qu'elles ne sont pas contraires au Statut Organique (Article 11), défendent aux particuliers le port d'armes sans autorisation spéciale.

L'Article 41 du Statut Organique, tout en permettant aux habitants de la Roumélie Orientale de s'assembler paisiblement et sans armes, en se conformant aux lois "qui peuvent régler l'exercice de ce droit," stipule, néanmoins, que les "rassemblements en plein air restent entièrement soumis aux lois de police."

L'Article 42 du même Statut, en reconnaissant aux "habitants de la Roumélie Orientale le droit de former des associations," interdit celles de ces associations dont le but, ou les moyens qu'elles emploient, auraient quelque chose "d'illicite ou de dangereux pour l'Etat; l'exercice du droit d'association est réglé par la loi" en vue du maintien "de la sécurité publique."

Je viens donc appeler la sérieuse attention de mes honorables collègues sur l'existence, dans la Roumélie Orientale, de Sociétés soi-disant "Gymnastiques," dont les membres de race Bulgare, pourvus d'armes et de munitions, non-seulement s'assemblent en plein air et s'exercent librement, mais portent aussi ces armes ordinairement ou vaquant à leurs affaires journalières; et je considère de mon devoir de déclarer l'existence de ces sociétés illicite, dangereuse pour la sécurité publique, et de nature à irriter les passions des différentes populations dont cette province est composée.

No. 231.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 227.)
Philippopoli, September 6, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the *compte-rendu* of a meeting of the Commission held on the 27th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 231.

Compte-rendu du Séance No. 78, tenue le $\frac{15}{27}$ *Août*, 1879 (10 *Ramazan*, 1296), *à la Délégation de France à Philippopoli.*

Présidence du BARON DE RING.

Etaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. Cingria, Consul à Philippopoli.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Mr. Michell.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha;
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 5 heures du soir.

Le compte-rendu de la dernière séance, lu par *M. Rozet*, est adopté.

Le Prince Tzeretelew appelle l'attention de ses collègues sur le fait que le journal "Philippoupolis" a publié les comptes-rendus des 75ème, 76ème, et 77ème séances en falsifiant celui de la 76ème.

Les Commissaires prennent l'engagement de ne point communiquer dorénavant les procès-verbaux à la presse locale sans l'autorisation de la Commission.

Le Président annonce qu'il enverra à la rédaction du "Philippoupolis" un exemplaire du Compte-rendu No. 76, pour le mettre en mesure de rectifier sa première publication.

L'ordre du jour appelle le débat sur la motion déposée à la dernière séance par le Prince Tzeretelew, et relative à la Pétition No. 97.

Le Président juge utile de relire cette motion:—

"*Motion.*

"La Commission, ayant pris connaissance de la Pétition No. 97, et reconnaissant qu'elle sort de sa compétence, décide que ses membres la communiqueront individuellement à leurs Ambassades respectives et à la Sublime Porte."

Le Commissaire de Russie donne lecture du compte-rendu de la Pétition No. 97, rédigé par M. Géon:—

"*Compte-rendu de la Pétition No. 97 reçue le* $\frac{8}{20}$ *Juillet*, 1879.

"Les pétitionnaires exposent que le Caza d'Ahi-Echélébi, situé dans le massif du Rhodope, faisait partie du Sandjak de Philippopoli. Ce caza se composait de quarante villages, dont vingt exclusivement Bulgares, une moitié Bulgare et moitié Turc, et les dix-neuf autres Musulmans.

"Presque tous les villages Bulgares, disent les pétitionnaires, se trouve sur la rive gauche de l'Arda, tandis que les villages Turcs sont situés sur la rive droite de la même rivière. Malgré leurs réclamations auprès des Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople, leurs villages ont été laissés, par le Traité de Berlin, hors de la Roumélie Orientale.

"Lors du passage de la Commission de Délimitation, continuent les pétitionnaires, les habitants Chrétiens des dits villages lui remirent une pétition demandant que leurs villages fissent partie de la province autonome. La Commission de Délimitation

n'ayant aucune instruction à ce sujet, les adressa à la Commission Européenne siégeant à Philippopoli.

"Les pétitionnaires ajoutent que la frontière naturelle et géographique de la province est la Rivière Arda, que presque tous les villages sis en deçà de cette rivière sont Bulgares, et qu'ils sont en rapports constants avec Philippopoli.

"Ils espèrent que la Commission Européenne ne permettra pas que la population Bulgare de ce caza soit exclue de la Roumélie, et ne participe point aux bienfaits de l'autonomie.

"Suivent dix cachets de Mouktars et une cinquantaine de signatures.

"*Nota.*—L'original est en Bulgare, avec traduction Française."

Après un court échange d'idées, il demeure entendu que les Commissaires, tout en n'acceptant pas le texte de la motion du Délégué de Russie, se réservent d'en donner individuellement communication aux Représentants de leurs Gouvernements à Constantinople.

Le Baron de Ring prévient ses collègues qu'il a adressé, le 13 Août, à M. de Kallay, alors Président temporaire de la Commission Européenne, la lettre et le Projet de Déclaration suivants :—

"*Philippopoli, le 13 Août*, 1879.

"M. le Président,

"De nombreuses marchandises sont introduites en Roumélie Orientale par les routes qui traversent le Balkan. Et comme le long de cette frontière le service douanier n'a pas encore été organisé, elles n'y acquittent aucun droit. De la Roumélie, partie de ces marchandises sont ensuite expédiées à Constantinople, sans rien payer non plus sur cette seconde portion de leur parcours, attendu que le Statut Organique a prohibé l'établissement d'une ligne de douanes entre la province privilégiée et le reste de l'Empire Ottoman. Cet état de choses est non-seulement préjudiciable au Trésor de l'Empire; il place encore dans un désavantage marqué, contrairement aux Traités existants, le commerce des nations qui échangent leurs produits avec la Turquie par la voie de mer. Par ce double motif, vous estimerez avec moi, M. le Président, qu'il doit y être porté un prompt remède.

"Quel est le motif qui a empêché jusqu'ici l'établissement d'une ligne douanière le long du Balkan? Si j'en crois les explications que je tiens d'une source autorisée, il faut le chercher dans des dissentiments qui existeraient entre l'Administration de la province et l'Administration Centrale à Constantinople au sujet du partage de leurs attributions respectives en ce qui concerne le service douanier. Nous nous trouverions donc là en présence de difficultés analogues à celles que la Commission a eu la bonne fortune de résoudre naguère par rapport aux postes et aux télégraphes.

"Cette considération m'engage à vous prier de vouloir bien convoquer la Commission à l'effet de lui soumettre un Projet de Déclaration que vous trouverez ci-joint, et qui, dans ma pensée, serait propre à fixer la véritable doctrine de la Commission Européenne sur le point litigieux.

"Je saisis, &c.

"Le Commissaire de France,
(Signé) "N. DE RING."

"*Declaration.*

"1. La disposition de l'Article 19 du Statut Organique, en vertu de laquelle les douanes de la Roumélie Orientale sont réservées à l'Empire, doit être interprétée dans ce sens que non-seulement les Traités, Conventions, lois, et règlements qui régissent ce service dans l'Empire s'appliquent à la province, mais qu'il en est encore de même pour les ordres généraux de service émanant de l'Administration Centrale des Douanes à Constantinople.

"2. L'Article 196 doit être interprété de telle sorte que le personnel des douanes en Roumélie Orientale sera censé faire corps avec celui des autres branches de l'Administration ressortissant au Directeur-Général des Finances de la province, et que les employés des dites douanes seront nommés de la même manière et par la même autorité que les employés des dits services.

"3. Bien que le produit net des douanes, que l'Article 17 du Statut réserve à l'Empire, ait été, par l'Article 195, évalué à la somme fixe de £ T. 9,000 par an, et que, par suite de cet arrangement à forfait, les intérêts fiscaux de l'Empire ne souffriraient pas directement des effets d'une mauvaise administration des douanes en Roumélie Orientale, il convient cependant de reconnaître à l'Administration des

Douanes Ottomanes le droit de contrôler et de surveiller par des fonctionnaires à son choix les douanes en Roumélie, parce que celles-ci sont destinées à sauvegarder, en outre des intérêts fiscaux des parties intéressées, les intérêts économiques de l'Empire tout entier aussi bien que ceux de la Roumélie Orientale. C'est une conséquence logique de la communauté douanière établie entre la province privilégiée et les autres territoires placés sous le sceptre de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

"4. La position des Inspecteurs nommés par l'Administration Centrale et leurs émoluments devront être fixés en vertu d'un accord librement débattu entre le Gouvernement Provincial et l'Administration Centrale des Douanes à Constantinople à moins que la Sublime Porte préfère prendre leur entretien à sa charge, auquel cas l'Administration Centrale n'aurait à tenir compte que de ses propres convenances. Cette solution découle du principe de l'Article 195, qui a déterminé à forfait le produit douanier auquel le Trésor Impérial a droit, en faisant peser sur la province les frais de l'Administration Douanière."

Les pièces dont il vient d'être donné lecture ayant été déjà, par les soins de la présidence, communiquées à tous les Commissaires, le *Baron de Ring* propose de considérer la question des douanes comme étant à l'ordre du jour.

Cette manière de voir ne soulève aucune objection de la part des membres de la réunion.

Le Prince Tzeretelew désirerait connaître l'opinion des Commissaires Ottomans sur le fond même de la question soulevée, car celle-ci concerne en première ligne le Gouvernement Ottoman.

Abro Effendi répond que les Délégués de Turquie n'ont aucune objection à formuler contre le projet du Baron de Ring, l'établissement d'une ligne douanière leur paraissant utile et désirable.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha dit qu'il ne trouve rien dans la proposition de son collègue de France que la Commission puisse hésiter à accepter; "La ligne douanière de Roumélie à la frontière des Balkans est," dit-il, "une sauvegarde nécessaire pour le commerce de l'Empire: il est donc naturel que la Sublime Porte désire exercer sur elle un droit de surveillance."

Le Prince Tzeretelew attacherait un grand prix à savoir si la Sublime Porte a provoqué le dépôt du projet actuellement en discussion.

Mr. Michell fait remarquer qu'à son point de vue la question est indifférente, puisqu'il ne s'agit pas de se rendre compte des opinions du Gouvernement Ottoman à ce sujet, mais d'interpréter le Statut Organique.

Le Baron de Ring dit qu'il a présenté son projet *motu proprio*, à la suite de conversations avec des membres du Gouvernement Local. Il ajoute que son but principal est de sauvegarder les intérêts commerciaux de tous les Etats de l'Europe.

Le Prince Tzeretelew constate que dans la question des postes et télégraphes le Gouverneur-Général a provoqué un avis de la Commission, tandis qu'à propos des douanes il n'en a point été de même ni de la part de ce dignitaire, ni de celle de la Sublime Porte: "Pour installer les douanes de Roumélie, le Gouvernement Ottoman," dit-il, "n'a besoin d'aucun avis de la Commission; il lui suffit de s'entendre à cet effet directement avec la province."

Le Baron de Ring répond que la question de l'installation des douanes le long des Balkans, n'intéresse pas seulement la Porte et la province, mais toutes les Puissances qui sont en relations commerciales avec la Turquie, et que d'un autre côté une entente entre la province et la Porte ne paraît pas à la veille de se faire.

Le Prince Tzeretelew réplique que le trafic étant nul en ce moment par les passes du Balkan, le commerce des Etats maritimes ne saurait souffrir d'un retard apporté à l'installation des douanes de Roumélie; du reste la Commission n'aurait rien à dire au cas où le Gouvernement Ottoman jugerait bon de ne jamais établir de douanes aux Balkans.

Le Chevalier Vernoni pense que la Commission ne saurait prendre de décision, d'autant plus qu'une Convention douanière se négocie à l'heure présente entre la Sublime Porte et la Principauté de Bulgarie, et que le Gouvernement Ottoman est parfaitement libre d'abolir tout droit entre la Principauté et la province ou d'accorder à la première un Tarif en faveur: un cas semblable s'est présenté, lorsque en 1861 la Sublime Porte a accordé aux produits des Principautés unies de Valachie et de Moldavie un droit d'entrée de 5 pour cent. seulement, tout en élevant son Tarif Général de 3 pour cent. à 8 pour cent. Le Commissaire d'Italie considère que le Gouvernement Ottoman est seul juge des changements à apporter à son système douanier intérieur. Il propose au lieu et place du Projet de Déclaration du Commis-

saire de France, l'amendement suivant, qui, dans sa pensée, est destiné à presser l'établissement du cordon douanier qu'on réclame, et offre en même temps l'avantage de défendre l'autonomie administrative de la province contre toute ingérence abusive :—

"*Amendement.*

"La Commission est d'avis que le Gouverneur-Général prenne les dispositions nécessaires pour établir le plus tôt possible le cordon douanier sur la frontière entre la Roumélie Orientale et la Principauté de Bulgarie, et qu'il applique les Tarifs douaniers actuellement en vigueur dans l'Empire Ottoman ou ceux qui seront établis ultérieurement par une entente entre la Sublime Porte et la Principauté de Bulgarie."

Le Baron de Ring ne conteste pas à la Porte le droit général de faire des Traités et Conventions de Commerce. Il ne lui refuse pas en particulier celui de conclure une union douanière avec la Bulgarie. Cette question n'a aucun rapport avec le Projet de Déclaration présenté par lui, lequel a uniquement pour but de régler les droits respectifs du Gouvernement Ottoman et de la province en ce qui concerne l'Administration des Douanes Rouméliotes. Au cas d'ailleurs encore douteux où l'union douanière empêcherait l'établissement d'une douane au Balkan le Projet de Déclaration du Commissaire de France s'appliquerait encore aux côtes de Bourgas :— "Il m'importe avant tout," ajoute le Baron de Ring, "que les droits de chacun soient nettement délinis. Sachant, à n'en point douter, que les Articles de Statut concernant les douanes ne sont pas interprétés de la même façon à Philippopoli et à Constantinople, je me suis proposé d'aplanir ces divergences sans perdre de vue l'intérêt des Etats qui ne communiquent avec la Turquie que par voie de mer. Si aujourd'hui le trafic par les Balkans est encore minime, il est probable que d'ici à peu de temps il n'en sera plus ainsi ; la creation d'une voie ferrée des bords du Danube en Roumélie pourrait modifier grandement l'état de choses actuel, et si alors la province continuait à ne pas s'entendre avec l'Empire, le commerce des Etats de l'Occident pourrait se trouver gravement atteint. Il importe de ne pas négliger les intérêts économiques de l'Empire qui sont très-sérieusement engagés dans la question des douanes de Roumélie."

Le Prince Tzeretelew répond qu'au jour éloigné où le trafic à travers les Balkans aura pris de l'extension rien n'empêchera les Gouvernements étrangers intéressés de se mettre d'accord avec la Sublime Porte pour la défense de leur commerce. Il ne croit pas que le Gouvernement Ottoman ait donné jusqu'ici des ordres à son Excellence Aléko Pacha pour l'établissement des douanes Roumélioles, et il ne sait pas davantage si les autorités provinciales ont éprouvé des difficultés à établir les dites douanes.

Il ne lui paraît pas possible que la Commission, dont le mandat actuel n'est en aucune façon celui de combler les lacunes qui peuvent exister dans son œuvre législatives puisse tracer à la Sublime Porte sa ligne de conduite, surtout à propos d'une question dans laquelle il ne s'agit pas d'interpréter mais plutôt de développer le statut.

Le Baron de Ring croit que le Prince Tzeretelew se trompe en assurant que la Sublime Porte n'a donné jusqu'ici au Gouverneur de la Roumélie Orientale aucun ordre au sujet des douanes : "Au surplus," ajoute-t-il, "le Statut a prévu la création des douanes : cela suffit."

M. Vernoni ne partage pas l'opinion de M. de Ring sur les dommages éventuels que celui-ci a fait entrevoir pour le commerce des Etats maritimes trafiquant avec la Turquie. Les négociants recherchent avant tout le plus grand bénéfice, et il est bien peu probable qu'ils renoncent à Constantinople, leur entrepôt général actuel, pour traverser la Bulgarie et les Balkans ; ce voyage hérissé de difficultés de tout genre grèverait leurs marchandises de frais trop considérables qu'elles ne pourraient supporter.

Le Baron de Ring ne se place pas au point de vue de l'état actuel des communications en Bulgarie, mais il songe à l'avenir : "Déjà," dit-il, "certaines marchandises légères prennent la voie de Bulgarie, et le Traité de Berlin ayant interdit tout droit de transit dans la Principauté, elles sont rendues à Constantinople libres de tout impôt.

Mr. Michell constate que si tous les Commissaires sont d'accord sur la nécessité de l'établissement des douanes Roumélioles, il n'en est plus de même au sujet du mode d'administration de ces mêmes douanes.

M. de Braunschweig propose de clore la discussion générale et de passer au vote sur l'amendement de M. Vernoni.

Le Prince Tzeretelew désirerait que MM. Vernoni et de Ring retirassent leur amendement et leur Projet de Déclaration ; mais, si la chose est impossible, il acceptera

l'amendement de son collègue d'Italie, qui reconnaît à la Sublime Porte le droit d'exiger que les douanes Roumélioles soient installées suivant les prescriptions du Statut.

Le Président met aux voix l'amendement de M. Vernoni, qu'il n'accepte point pour sa part.

M. de Braunschweig a le regret de voter contre l'amendement, parce que celui-ci présente certaines lacunes qui l'empêchent d'y adhérer.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie vote dans le même sens.

Le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique n'accepte pas non plus cet amendement qui, outre les lacunes auxquelles M. de Braunschweig a déjà fait allusion, offre l'inconvénient de mentionner des arrangements éventuels entre la Sublime Porte et la Bulgarie, dont la Commission n'a pas à s'occuper et qui sont prévus par l'Article 196 du Statut.

Les Délégués d'Italie et de Russie votent pour l'amendement.

Les Délégués de Turquie rejettent cet amendement, qui laisse de côté la question de surveillance résolue dans le Projet de Déclaration de M. de Ring.

Le Président constate que l'amendement de M. Vernoni a été rejeté par 5 voix contre 2. En conséquence il invite la Commission à passer à la discussion des Articles du Projet de Déclaration présenté par lui-même.

Le Chevalier Vernoni ne se croit pas autorisé à participer au débat Article par Article sur le Projet de Déclaration présenté par le Baron de Ring, parce que à son avis cette proposition a pour objet d'établir un règlement douanier, œuvre qui lui paraît étrangère au mandat de la Commission et contraire au Statut, lequel a réservé cette tâche à l'Administration Financière de la province. Le Commissaire d'Italie annonce, en conséquence, qu'il s'abstiendra de prendre part à la discussion du Projet de Déclaration de son collègue de France jusqu'à ce qu'il ait reçu des instructions de son Gouvernement sur la matière.

Le Baron de Ring dit qu'il ne peut admettre que son Projet de Déclaration soit considéré comme contraire au Statut : "Je ne puis," ajoute-t-il, "cacher l'étonnement que j'éprouve en voyant M. Vernoni, après une discussion d'une heure à laquelle il a pris part, déclarer, aussitôt qu'un amendement présenté par lui est rejeté, qu'il ne peut pas participer à la discussion ultérieure. Ce fait est sans précédent dans l'histoire de la Commission : on ne peut en vérité se l'expliquer qu'en prêtant à M. le Commissaire d'Italie le désir d'arrêter les travaux de la Commission."

Le Chevalier Vernoni répond que, ne se croyant pas autorisé à discuter le projet du Baron de Ring, il a présenté un amendement destiné, comme il l'a déclaré, à remplacer le dit projet. Il ne saurait donc en ce moment continuer la discussion.

Le Baron de Ring fait observer que M. Vernoni, pendant les quinze jours qu'il vient de passer à Constantinople, a eu le temps d'étudier la question douanière et de demander des instructions à son Gouvernement. Au surplus rien n'empêche le Commissaire d'Italie, s'il éprouve le moindre scrupule, de voter contre la proposition. A l'heure actuelle, la Commission n'est plus tenue de prendre ses décisions à l'unanimité des voix, et par conséquent rien ne serait plus simple que de trancher le différend par un vote à la majorité.

Le Chevalier Vernoni répond qu'il a étudié la question à Constantinople et qu'il a eu l'occasion de s'en entretenir avec certains Ambassadeurs qui pensent comme lui que cette affaire n'est pas de la compétence de la Commission. Il ajoute qu'il exécute ponctuellement les instructions de son Gouvernement qui reconnaît à la province le droit d'administrer elle-même ses douanes.

Le Prince Tzeretelew ne fait pas aussi bon marché que le Baron de Ring de l'opinion de la minorité, tous les efforts de la Commission devant tendre à l'émission de votes à l'unanimité, il ne lui paraît pas possible de déclarer *à priori* que l'opinion de la minorité est sans importance.

M. de Braunschweig pense que la Commission ferait bien d'accorder à M. Vernoni un délai convenable pour se procurer des instructions.

Abro Effendi tient à constater que jamais, depuis le début des travaux de la Commission, un membre n'a arrêté un débat en cours pour le seul fait qu'une proposition émanée de lui n'avait pas été votée.

Le Prince Tzeretelew tient, pour sa part, à constater que c'est pour la première fois que la demande d'ajourner un débat a rencontré des difficultés au sein de la Commission.

Après un court échange d'idées, il demeure entendu, sur la proposition de M. de Braunschweig, que la continuation du débat sur le Projet de Déclaration déposé par le Baron de Ring est remise à la prochaine séance.

Abro Effendi donne lecture de la déclaration suivante:

"*Déclaration.*

"Le No. 104 de la "Maritza" des $\frac{31 \text{ Juillet}}{12 \text{ Août}}$ contient une lettre dans laquelle un certain nombre d'officiers de la milice à la solde de cette province qui fait partie intégrante de l'Empire Ottoman, protestent contre l'allégation qu'ils auraient porté un toast à Sa Majesté le Sultan à l'occasion de l'anniversaire de la naissance de Sa Majesté, et affirment qu'une pareille assertion est de nature à compromettre leur bonne intelligence avec la sage et patriotique population de ce pays.

"Considérant que les officiers subalternes à la solde de la province, quelle que soit leur nationalité, sont nommés par délégation de Sa Majesté le Sultan, et qu'ils se trouvent par conséquent au service de Sa Majeste, les Commissaires Ottomans tiennent à constater que la publication d'une telle lettre prouve de la part de ses auteurs une méconnaissance complète de leurs devoirs vis-à-vis du Souverain territorial qu'ils servent, et est de nature à saper l'ordre légal dans la province, le démenti qu'ils donnent fût-il vrai ou non."

Mr. Michell adhere à la déclaration des Commissaires de Turquie parce que, à son avis, le principe de la souveraineté de Sa Majesté le Sultan dans la Roumélie Orientale doit intéresser toutes les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin.

Le Prince Tzeretelew ne comprend pas ce qu'un article anonyme a à faire avec les droits du Sultan en Roumélie Orientale.

Le Président donne lecture de la lettre suivante adressée par lui au Directeur des Finances, le 23 Août, 1879:

"*Philippopoli, le 22 Août*, 1879 (v.s.).

"M. le Directeur,

"A la suite d'un accord intervenu entre son Président temporaire, M. de Kallay, et le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale, son Excellence Aléko Pacha Vogeridès, la Commission Européenne, que j'ai l'honneur de présider en ce moment, a, vous le savez, décidé à l'unanimité, dans sa séance du $\frac{31 \text{ Mai}}{12 \text{ Juin}}$, 1879:

"1. Que toutes les espèces se trouvant dans les Caisses de la province seraient comptées en présence de personnes de confiance désignées par le Gouverneur-Général;

2. Que les dites espèces seraient livrées aux jour et heure fixés par son Excellence Aléko Pacha contre reçus constatant que les Caisses avaient été trouvées en ordre et le compte des espèces conforme aux écritures;

"3. Que ces reçus partiels seraient ensuite annexés à un reçu collectif à délivrer par le Gouverneur-Général à l'ancienne Administration Financière;

"4. Que pour la remise de la Caisse Centrale, son Excellence M. le Gouverneur-Général serait assisté par le Comité des Finances;

"5. Qu'agissant en votre qualité de Directeur des Finances nommé par la Commission Européenne, vous présenteriez à celle-ci, soit au moment de la remise des Caisses, soit quelques jours plus tard, un exposé complet de la situation financière de la province au 3 Juin, 1879.

"Conformément à cette décision, MM. de Contouly et Abro Effendi, agissant en leur qualité de membres du Comité des Finances, ont remis à une Commission désignée par son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général les espèces contenues dans la Caisse Centrale de la province. Ils ont de même remis à la même Commission les espèces contenues dans la Caisse de l'Arrondissement de Philippopoli, et la dite Commission leur a délivré deux reçus partiels, l'un daté du $\frac{1}{13}$ Juin, 1879, pour la Caisse Centrale, l'autre, daté du $\frac{4}{16}$ Juin, 1879, pour la Caisse de l'Arrondissement de Philippopoli.

"Cette première opération terminée, vous avez désigné vous-même des agents pour le comptage des espèces contenues dans les autres Caisses de la province et pour la remise des dites Caisses à l'Administration nouvelle.

"Je viens vous prier aujourd-hui, M. le Directeur, de vouloir bien, si comme je le suppose, la remise régulière des Caisses est achevée dans toute la province, mettre à la Commission Européenne les reçus partiels de toutes les Caisses publiques de la Roumélie Orientale, autres que ceux de la Caisse Centrale et de la Caisse de l'Arrondissement de Philippopoli, ainsi que le reçu collectif qui doit être délivré aux termes de l'accord susmentionné par son Excellence Aléko Pacha Vogeridès.

"Je vous prie en outre de vouloir bien faire tenir à la Commission Européenne le

plus tôt que vous pourrez l'exposé qu'elle vous a demandé de la situation financière de la Roumélie Orientale au 3 Juin, 1879.

"La Commission Européenne se trouve, en effet, à la veille d'une suspension de ses travaux, et il importe qu'avant de se séparer, elle soit mise en possession de pièces qui lui ont été promises par le Chef de l'Administration nouvelle au moment où elle a remis à celui-ci les pouvoirs dont elle avait été investie par l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin.

"Veuillez, &c.

"Le Président temporaire de la Commission Européenne,
(Signé) "N. DE RING."

"M. Schmidt," continue le Baron de Ring, "a répondu en ces termes:—

"M. le Président, "'*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{1}{13}$ *Août*, 1879.

"'En réponse à la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser le $\frac{11}{23}$ courant, je prends la liberté de vous annoncer que les Caisses publiques de la Roumélie Orientale ont été remises à la nouvelle Administration de la province, et que les comptes de la Direction Générale des Finances sont clôturés.

"'La Commission Européenne trouvera peut-être bon de charger le Comité des Finances de l'examen de ces comptes et des documents y annexés.

"'Je vous prie, &c.
(Signé) "'A. SCHMIDT.'"

A la suite d'un court échange d'idées, la Commission charge MM. de Contouly et Abro Effendi de procéder, avant la prochaine séance, à l'examen des comptes de la Direction Générale des Finances mentionnés dans la lettre de M. Schmidt.

Le Prince Tzeretelew prend la parole en ces termes:—

"Le Président ayant tout à l'heure fait allusion à la prochaine suspension de nos travaux, il devient fort important de savoir quand ces travaux pourront être repris, afin d'achever la seconde partie de notre tâche en donnant notre avis sur les projets de réorganisation administrative des provinces de l'Empire Ottoman.

"Ce n'est pas la première fois que cette question est soulevée au sein de la Commission. A la séance du $\frac{30 \text{ Septembre}}{12 \text{ Octobre}}$, 1878, elle a donné lieu à un débat au cours duquel le Deuxième Commissaire Ottoman s'est exprimé ainsi:—

"'En signant le Traité de Berlin, la Sublime Porte s'est engagée à former dans les provinces des Commissions spéciales, mais elle ne doit prendre l'avis de la Commission de la Roumélie Orientale qu'au moment où les Assemblées locales susmentionnées auront achevé leurs travaux et où les projets ainsi élaborés seront prêts à être promulgués après avoir été examinés par la Sublime Porte.'

"Pendant la même discussion Abro Effendi a dit:—

"'La Commission Européenne a un mandat spécial,' (élaboration du Statut), 'auquel les Commissaires Ottomans attachent la plus grande importance, et elle ne peut rien entreprendre ou s'occuper de questions secondaires sans avoir tout d'abord donné un commencement d'exécution à ce mandat.'

"Six mois s'écoulèrent, et les travaux d'élaboration du Statut Organique étaient terminés en première lecture quand la question de la réorganisation des autres provinces fut soulevée par le Commissaire de France à la séance du $\frac{15}{27}$ Mars, 1879. Le Baron de Ring, après avoir fait observer que l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin était resté jusqu'ici lettre-morte, s'exprima en ces termes:—

"'Nous nous trouvons par suite de cet oubli en présence d'une situation politique d'une réelle gravité. Des contrées vastes et populeuses avaient obtenu, grâce au Traité de San Stéfano, la promesse d'une quasi indépendance. L'Europe les a replacées sous l'autorité directe de la Sublime Porte; mais en leur promettant des réformes qui devaient constituer pour elles une sorte de compensation. Si ces promesses n'étaient pas réalisées, non-seulement la Porte, mais toutes les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin se rendraient coupables d'un véritable déni de justice. La Commission Européenne a donc à mon avis le devoir d'insister pour que l'Article XXIII soit exécuté. Le sort des populations auxquelles cette clause doit profiter ne saurait la laisser indifférente. Je voudrais en conséquence demander à MM. les Commissaires Ottomans de vouloir bien nous renseigner sur les intentions de leur Gouvernement au sujet de l'Article XXIII, et nous informer à quelle époque nous serons appelés à nous prononcer sur les règlements prévus par cet Article.'

"Sir H. Drummond Wolff ajouta de son côté: 'Il est heureux que cette question ait été soulevée et je crois que nos Gouvernements doivent être informés par la

Commission que celle-ci n'a pas encore eu l'occasion de donner son avis conformément à l'Article XXIII.'

"La plus part des Commissaires, et entre autres M. de Kallay, s'associèrent aux opinions précitées, mais ces démarches n'eurent pas plus de résultat que celle que j'avais faite en Septembre 1878. Abro Effendi prétexta que l'absence à la Commission de Constantinople avait empêché de réunir, et cela pendant six mois, les informations demandées.

"Quatre mois se passèrent encore; la Commission séjourna à Constantinople, et revint à Philippopoli sans qu'aucune réponse lui fût parvenue. Aussi, à la séance du $\frac{1}{13}$ Juillet, 1879, ai-je posé de nouveau la même question aux Commissaires Ottomans: cette fois Abro Effendi me répondit que les règlements provinciaux étaient sur le point d'être terminés et seraient prochainement soumis aux Commissions Spéciales prévues par le Traité.

"Un mois s'est écoulé encore. La Commission Européenne a élaboré le Statut Organique, en a surveillé l'application pendant plus de trois mois, et elle est sur le point de suspendre ses travaux, mais rien n'a été fait pour rendre possible l'exécution de l'Article XXIII. Contrairement aux opinions d'Abro Effendi, j'affirme que selon le sens et la lettre du dit Article, la première partie dans ce travail appartient aux 'Commissions Spéciales au sein desquelles l'élément indigène doit être largement représenté, et qui auront à élaborer les détails des nouveaux règlements provinciaux.' Or, plus de treize mois se sont passés depuis la ratification du Traité de Berlin, et aucune de ces Commissions n'a même été convoquée; en calculant le temps nécessaire pour que ces Commissions soient réunies, pour qu'elles élaborent leurs projets, et pour que la Porte les examine et demande l'avis de la Commission, on voit que la réorganisation des provinces malheureuses est indéfiniment reculée sinon complétement éludée.

"Sir H. Drummond Wolff et le Gouvernement Britannique s'étant intéressés à la question des réformes sans obtenir un résultat appréciable, je ne me fais pas d'illusions sur l'effet d'une démarche analogue de la Commission Européenne. J'ai cru pourtant de mon devoir d'attirer l'attention de mes collègues sur les faits précités, car l'état des provinces visées par l'Article XXIII n'est un mystère pour personne et exige un prompt remède."

Abro Effendi répond qu'il n'a rien à ajouter ou à retrancher aux explications qu'il a déjà données au Prince Tzeretelew à propos de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 4 Septembre: la continuation du débat sur le Projet de Déclaration présenté par le Baron de Ring.

La séance est levée à 7 heures du soir.

(Signé) RING.
COUTOULY.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
CINGRIA.
MICHELL.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
SÉLIM.
CURIEL.

No. 232.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 16.*)

(No. 228.)
Philippopoli, September 6, 1879.

My Lord,

GENERAL STRECKER (Rechid Pasha) arrived here on the 31st ultimo, and assumed command of the local militia and gendarmerie on the 2nd instant.

As yet I have only had a short conversation with the General. His presence and manner convey a very favourable impression, and the ideas which he expressed to me

in respect to the means by which he would endeavour to evolve order out of the chaos and anarchy which reign in his Department appeared to me to be logical and sound.

He seemed to be aware that great firmness would be necessary. He had already ordered two militiamen caught in the act of stopping and robbing a waggon train of Turkish refugees to be sent for trial to Philippopoli, and he assured me that he would inflict a very severe punishment, as an example to the militia. It appears that, when his orders to that effect were telegraphed, the men were reported to be too ill to travel; but the General insisted on their being sent here nevertheless, having shown that they were perfectly able to rob.

I take this opportunity of inclosing the ridiculous order of the day in which General Vitalis takes leave of his insubordinate officers and men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 232.

Extract from the "Philippopolis" of September 6, 1879.

Ordre du Jour à l'Armée de la Roumélie Orientale.

Officiers, Sous-Officiers, et Soldats, *Philippopoli, le* 31 Août / 12 Septembre, 1879.

AU moment où l'organisation de la milice et de la gendarmerie est achevée, un Iradé de Sa Majesté le Sultan me rappelle à Constantinople.

En présence de cette mesure, il me reste une consolation, c'est d'avoir accompli mon devoir jusqu'au bout et de remettre intacte à un Général tel que mon camarade d'armée, le Général Strécker, cette autorité que je tenais de la confiance du Souverain. L'avenir prouvera si j'ai failli un seul instant à cette mission qui m'avait été confiée et qui m'a mis en butte à toute la violence des partis politiques qui se disputent la direction de ce beau pays, et pour cela je compte sur la clairvoyance et le patriotisme des représentants du peuple à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Dédaigneux de toutes les attaques grossières dont j'ai été l'objet et qui sentaient le ruisseau d'où elles sortaient, je vous ai toujours laissé le soin de prendre ma défense et d'affirmer par l'estime et la sollicitude, que vous n'avez cessé de me témoigner, ce que nous avons fait, en si peu de temps et malgré toutes les entraves systématiques.

Soldats!

Vous renfermez en vous ce qu'il y a de plus pur, de plus élevé, de plus noble dans la nation; restez disciplinés, insensibles aux mauvais conseils; n'oubliez pas que votre entretien coûte bien des économies au travailleur des champs et que ce serait un crime de gaspiller un tel argent pour la satisfaction de quelques brouillons.

Vous avez contribué par votre courage, par des sacrifices inouïs à assurer l'autonomie de votre pays, de même par votre sang froid, votre dévoûment à la chose publique, vous garderez, quand même, ce bien si précieux que l'Europe vous a donné et dont un parti semble se jouer: "Vos droits acquis."

Officiers étrangers!

Tout en ayant été votre chef, j'ai été le confident de beaucoup d'entre vous. Je me plais à reconnaître tout le zèle que vous avez apporté dans cette œuvre si délicate et pleine de difficultés de l'organisation qui m'avait été confiée. Comme moi, vous n'aviez qu'un but, qu'une ambition, celle d'attacher votre nom à l'histoire de ce pays et de contribuer à son développement, en mettant à sa disposition votre intelligence, votre savoir, et votre courage.

Officiers, sous-officiers, et soldats de l'armée de la Roumélie!

Adieu! vous ne cesserez jamais d'occuper la première place dans mon cœur.

Le Général Commandant la Gendarmerie et la Milice de la Roumélie Orientale,
(Signé) V. VITALIS.

No. 233.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 229.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 6, 1879.

IT is with much pain that I transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of the pathetic appeal to the Great Powers of Europe, which, I was informed by a deputation of Turks this morning, is being largely signed by the Mussulman lower classes of Philippopoli.

The deputation stated that the Turkish population intended to come to me *en masse* to implore my protection, for since Assim Pasha had left they felt they were entirely at the mercy of their Bulgarian oppressors.

They added that had they known of Assim Pasha's intention to leave this morning, the entire Turkish population would have repaired to the railway station and prevented him from abandoning them.

A second deputation having come to me with a petition addressed to the European Commission, I sent them to Baron de Ring, our temporary President, after advising them as usual to remain perfectly quiet and to have faith in a speedy improvement of their present position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 233.

Petition of Turkish Population of Philippopoli to the European Powers.

(Translation.)

NOS compatriotes de la Roumélie Orientale n'en ont pas fini avec les attaques et les mauvais traitements de toute sorte auxquels ils se livrent sans cesse contre nous. On nous avait dit que la paix et la tranquillité régnaient en Roumélie Orientale. Serait-ce pour nous faire massacrer tous qu'on nous a fait quitter Constantinople? O! Européens qui jouissez des bienfaits de la civilisation! Vous avez envoyé des Commissaires en Roumélie Orientale pour vous enquérir de l'état de notre pays. Il n'a donc pas suffi de toutes les souffrances que nous avons essuyées pour que vous y ajoutiez celle de nous laisser en sacrifice entre les mains d'un Gouvernement Bulgare? Vos cœurs ne seront-ils pas touchés à l'énumération des malheurs qui nous frappent? Les miliciens Bulgares nous insultent, nous attaquent, nous blessent, et nous assassinent en pleine rue, en plein bazar, et lorsque nos coreligionnaires se présentent à la porte du konak du Gouverneur-Général pour porter plainte de tous les méfaits qu'on nous fait subir, ils y sont reçus par le fouet de l'officier Bulgare mis en faction.

O, Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman! après toutes les preuves de sollicitude que vous nous avez données pendant une année, pourquoi assistez-vous aujourd'hui impassiblement à notre immolation et à notre écrasement, nous, sans armes et sans protection aucune, sous les pieds des Bulgares armés depuis ceux qui n'ont que 7 ans jusqu'à ceux qui en ont 70? Nous ne voulons plus de nos biens; nous ne demandons à présent qu'à voir saufs notre honneur et notre vie. Comment nous sera-t-il possible de vivre ici quand nos juges et nos opposants sont des Bulgares? On tient incarcérés 20 à 30 Musulmans blessés dans l'affaire de Hadji Hassan Mahalessi, tandis qu'on s'est contenté de deux jours d'emprisonnement pour les assassins de ce pauvre Musulman de Dourout'i qui a été littéralement mis en morceaux. Nous n'avons plus aucun espoir; à qui veut-on que nous nous adressions? Qui nous donnera la paix, qui nous donnera le pain?

(Follow several hundred signatures.)

No. 234.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 230.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Philippoupolis" of this date, reproducing a few of the grievances of which the Turks are at present complaining.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 234.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of September 5, 1879.

UNE femme Turque, native de Samakoff, quittait dernièrement à pied son pays natal, accompagnée de sa fille et de son fils encore à la mamelle. Cette pauvre femme, poussée par la misère la plus atroce, avait l'intention de prendre le train et d'aller à Constantinople demander l'hospitalité de ses coreligionnaires. Mais l'homme propose et Dieu dispose: sur la route qui mène de Tatar-Bazardjik à Philippopoli, quelques laboureurs Bulgares se jetèrent sur elle et lui arrachèrent sa fille qu'ils traînèrent dans un champ de maïs, où ils assouvirent sur elle leurs brutales passions. Pendant ce temps, la mère éperdue, remplissait les airs de ses cris déchirants. Après avoir cherché partout sa fille, se déchirant cruellement les pieds au milieu des ronces et des épines, elle finit par la trouver demi-morte au pied du talus de la chaussée.

Ces trois malheureux êtres se traînèrent tant bien que mal jusqu'à Philippopoli où ils espèrent que les autorités, auxquelles il se sont adressés, ne manqueront pas d'arrêter des coupables et de leur infliger un châtiment exemplaire.

Des scènes pareilles arrivent dans tous les pays du monde, surtout dans ceux où les lois n'ont pas assez de force pour sévir efficacement contre les malfaiteurs.

Il nous est pénible de voir que ces mêmes scènes se reproduisent dans le nôtre où la douceur des habitants est passée en proverbe. Nous prions donc l'autorité de prendre des mesures sévères contre ces quelques brigands, qui ne craignent pas de ternir, par leur conduite infâme, la bonne réputation de leurs compatriotes.

Des mauvaises langues ont propagé en ville la rumeur que l'article de fond publié à la deuxième page de notre dernier numéro visait un fonctionnaire Turc au service de l'administration de cette province.

Ces bruits mensongers n'ont pu être répandus que par une coterie intéressée à nuire au susdit fonctionnaire—contre lequel il se fait une petite guerre en règle dans certains cercles de l'Administration—à ce que nous ont, du moins, affirmé deux personnes autorisées qui sont venues à cet effet dans nos bureaux.

Nous déclarons, par conséquent, que le susdit article ne concernait en rien ce fonctionnaire Turc, que nous ne connaissons nullement, et auquel, du reste, nous ne pouvions pas raisonnablement attribuer a lettre publiée par la "Maritza" sous la signature vague d' "un Turc."

On nous assure que les Bulgares de Tatar-Bajardjik défendent aux Musulmans d'illuminer les minarets, comme cela se pratique tous les ans à l'époque du Ramazan. On dit même qu'ils ont été jusqu'à casser à coups de pierre les lampions qu'on y avait appendus.

Nous demandons ce que les Chrétiens auraient dit si les Turcs de Constantinople se permettaient d'empêcher leurs processions, et leurs autres cérémonies religieuses.

D'après une autre nouvelle, les Bulgares de la même localité auraient mis le feu à la mosquée comme sous le nom de Piribéy Djamissi. Cet édifice, qui n'est plus maintenant qu'un monceau de ruines, a coûté, dit-on, à la communauté Musulmane, la somme respectable de 15,000 piastres. Cet acte de vandalisme eut lieu le deuxième jour du Ramazan.

Dans la nuit de Dimanche à Lundi une bande de Bulgares fanatiques de Tatar-Bazardjik a cru faire preuve de patriotisme en se portant à de voies de fait contre quelques Musulmans inoffensifs. Voici ce dont il s'agit.

Hadji Suleïman Baroudji est un paisible habitant de Bazardjik, jouissant de l'estime générale de ses compatriotes. Un jour qu'il se trouvait chez lui, entouré des membres de sa famille, il entendit frapper violemment à sa porte; il s'apprêtait à descendre l'escalier que déjà la porte de la rue cédait aux coups redoublés des agresseurs. C'étaient les Bulgares en question. Ces effrénés se jetèrent sur lui et le blessèrent grièvement; ils dirigèrent ensuite leurs attaques contre les autres habitants de la maison, lesquels étaient venus au secours de Suleïman. Sa femme Hacimbé reçut plusieurs blessures graves au bras droit; Ibrahim Oglou Mehmet eut aussi sa part de blessures, et ses deux frères furent roués de coups. Les agresseurs étaient armés, qui de baïonnettes, qui de poignards, qui aussi de gourdins.

La police a-t-elle arrêté et puni les coupables? Voilà ce sur quoi nous ne sommes pas à même de satisfaire la curiosité du public, qui est, croyons-nous, aussi anxieux que nous de le savoir.

On sait que, lors de la dernière guerre Russo-Turque, un grand nombre de villages Musulmans ont été évacués par leurs propriétaires et habités par les Bulgares. Omouroglou est un de ces villages. Les Bulgares, qui s'y étaient établis depuis environ un an, reçurent dernièrement l'ordre de l'évacuer. Mais ces gracieux hôtes décidèrent dans leur sagesse que les toits qui les avaient abrités ne devaient plus avoir raison d'exister, après leur départ; aussi se mirent-ils à les démolir un à un.

Les propriétaires qui sont des réfugiés, nouvellement rapatriés, eurent beau protester contre cet acte inhumain, les démolisseurs répondirent à leurs raisonnements par un autre plus persuasif, d'après eux, celui des coups de poing. A la fin, voyant qu'ils ne pourraient rien tirer de la compassion de leurs ennemis, les réfugiés se décidèrent à envoyer une députation à Philippopoli, chargée de déposer leurs plaintes à l'autorité. Mais un malheur n'arrive jamais seul, dit-on. A quelque distance d'Omouroglou, MM. les Députés reçurent une nouvelle raclée, non moins bien administrée que la première. A en croire cette députation, qui se trouve maintenant dans nos murs, elle ne doit son salut qu'à la rapidité de ses jambes, et un peu aussi, soit dit entre nous, à la bonne volonté des agresseurs.

Mercredi dernier, à 9 heures du soir, Chérif Agha sortait de l'école du quartier Kirhané pour aller à la mosquée voisine faire sa prière. Chemin faisant, il fut arrêté par sept ou huit soldats, qui, après l'avoir battu de leur mieux, lui enlevèrent aussi sa montre. Après ce haut-fait, ils continuèrent leur chemin aussi contents que s'ils avaient fait une œuvre de charité.

Djafer est un paisible débitant de tabac, d'origine Arabe. On ne lui connaît qu'un seul défaut, celui de marcher un peu plus vite que les autres, surtout lorsque ses affaires l'obligent à presser le pas. Cela lui donne, paraît-il, un air martial qui n'est pas tout-à-fait du goût de nos compatriotes Bulgares; et la preuve c'est que dernièrement quelques-uns d'entre eux l'ayant rencontré sortant de chez lui, et sur le point de prendre sa marche habituelle, l'arrêtèrent sur son chemin, et lui firent un sermon en trois points sur l'art pédagogique. Mais comme ce raisonnement ne pouvait pas entrer facilement dans la tête de notre Arabe, messieurs les pédagogues poussèrent la charité jusqu'à lui en donner un autre plus efficace, celui des coups de poing; ils se mirent par conséquent en devoir de lui faire danser un bal dont il se souviendra longtemps.

Il y a quinze jours, les Musulmans du quartier Hadji Hassan Mahalessi étaient en voie de préparer une pétition, qu'ils devaient présenter à son Excellence Aléko Pacha. Dans cette pièce ils se plaignaient au Gouverneur des vexations auxquelles ils sont en butte de la part des Bulgares. Au moment où un des plaignants y apposait sa signature, un agent de la police secrète lui arrache la pièce des mains et met en état d'arrestation quelques-uns des signataires. Une fois conduits au conak, nous ne savons quel fonctionnaire ou Chef de Bureau déchire leur pétition et, joignant les menaces aux Conseils, ils leur signifient de se garder dans l'avenir de calomnier ses compatriotes. C'est une nouvelle manière de rendre la justice qui n'a pas été prévue par le Code.

On nous rapporte qu'il vient d'arriver dans notre ville trois chars à bœufs chargés de blessés Turcs. Ces malheureux, qui sont pour la plupart originaires de Kara-Téïz, village de l'arrondissement de Koïoun Tépé, sont provisoirement logés dans les maisons Musulmanes du quartier Hadji Hassan Mahalessi. Nous donnons cette nouvelle sous bénéfice d'inventaire.

Des agents de police ont fait dernièrement une descente dans le quartier où se tient le marché du Jeudi. Quelques Pommaks qui étaient allés vendre dans cette foire les produits de leur petite industrie, ont été de la part de agents en question l'objet d'une perquisition toute particulière. Quelques-uns d'entre eux se sont permis, dit-on, de fouiller les bourses des Pommaks, pour voir s'il n'y avait pas moyen de trouver quelques armes rondes à l'effigie du Czar ou autre. Nous nous refusons d'ajouter foi à ces on-dit là.

L'anarchie la plus complète règne à Tatar-Bazardjik. Le Préfet est impuissant d'exercer son pouvoir. Quand un réfugié Turc réclame sa maison habitée par un Bulgare, celui-ci la brûle plutôt que de la céder à son propriétaire légal. Voilà pourquoi tous les soirs ont lieu des incendies dans le quartier Turc qui bientôt sera converti à un champ de ruines. Ainsi Mercredi soir, le conak de Moustapha Agha a été réduit en cendres.

Pourquoi un grand nombre des blessés Turcs dans l'affaire du quartier Hadji Hassan Mahalessi gisent-ils pêle-mêle sur les pierres humides des prisons? Est-ce pour y être soignés?

No. 235.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 794.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 5, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a communication I have received from the Porte in reply to representations I had made to it with reference to the alleged return of Circassian families to the Vilayet of Salonica.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 235.

Sublime Porte (*received September* 4, 1879).

LES informations fournies par les autorités Impériales du Vilayet de Salonique portent qu'en dehors du petit nombre de Circassiens qui ont été, il y a déjà quelque temps, répartis et installés dans certains villages de la province à cause des difficultés que présentait leur renvoi en Asie, aucun autre convoi de Circassiens n'a débarqué à Salonique. Du reste, la Sublime Porte a donné de nouveau des ordres sévères pour empêcher que les Circassiens installés en Asie puissent retourner en Turquie d'Europe.

No. 236.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 795.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 5, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a very interesting and important Report from Lieutenant Chermside, upon the proceedings of the Assembly of Deputies for the Vilayet of Aleppo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 236.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Alexandretta, August 20, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 7th August the Aleppo Local Assembly of members from all parts of the vilayet was dissolved after a Session of over five weeks.

I have already informed your Excellency of the despondent attitude of those of the members I was personally acquainted with, and of the Assembly generally, shortly after its opening, and of how I was doing what lay in my power, both with the Commission and such of the members as I made the acquaintance of, to forward the execution of this part of the Commission's programme, *i.e.*, the discussion of questions and the passing of resolutions that it was extremely desirable should be formulated, in order that the urgent requirements of the country, according to the views of the representatives of its different districts and communities, might be known.

I have great pleasure in informing your Excellency that I think that, on the whole, the Assembly's work has been carried out in a satisfactory and creditable manner, and that there is very little to criticize unfavourably in its proceedings and labours, although I regret that the Session was somewhat abruptly terminated owing to Ramazan, discussions and resolutions on several rather important questions having been thus unavoidably omitted.

The following are measures on which resolutions have been passed. Many of the resolutions seem excellent, and, being general, require no comment from me, as your Excellency will be better able to judge than I of the necessity or expediency of adopting them. In such as are not clear, or which concern local matters, I have added a few lines of explanation.

The Council or Assembly was presided over by the Commissioners, and there was a very fair amount of liberty of speech and freedom of discussion; certain subjects were, however, discouraged, and any very decided expression of opinion. The Assembly was a consultative one, and the opposition shown by the Mussulmans to the admission of Christians into the gendarmerie and throughout the Administration, and other causes, led to a petition, presented by the Christian members alone, embodying demands or requests of theirs, which, after several discussions, it was determined not to include in the general proceedings of the Assembly. This is an important fact, and, in accepting any report of the proceedings the Porte may furnish to your Excellency, I would point out that this Assembly cannot be considered an independent one, a not very important material point, perhaps, unless it be represented to have been such. Had it not, indeed, been for the presence of Nourrian Effendi, and the attitude of a very enlightened and able Christian Deputy of Aintab, I imagine its liberty of speech and discussion would have been practically far more restricted.

Resolutions or "mushattahs" passed on the following subjects:—

1. *Gendarmerie.*—Reorganization of zaptieh force. This is, of course, a necessity.

The proposed scheme has many good points, and would produce good results if it were found capable of execution by Turkish officials. It was worked out by a separate Committee, and I have already given your Excellency some information as to its details, the further grant required, &c. One good clause in it is the proposal that all the men should be able to read and write. The scale of payment is—

Foot gendarmes, 150 piastres per month and bread rations; non-commissioned officers, 180 piastres.

Horse gendarmes, 200 to 220 piastres and bread and barley rations.

In the separate petition of the Christian members there is a demand for a proportion of the force to be Christians, and for these members to be eligible for promotion to all posts and commands.

2. *Cases for Trial.*—That petitions and causes be given direct to the Kaïmakam, not, as heretofore, to the Naïb (or Cadi). The Kaïmakam to then give them, according to their nature, to the "Davi Medjliss" (Criminal Court), the Zabitah (gendarme officer), &c.

3. *Public Works, Alexandretta.*—A resolution asking the Government to take action in the matter of draining the Alexandretta marshes. It would be needless

for me to dwell on the extreme desirability of this, or the facilities there would be with an ordinary capable Administration for the construction of some sort of port, and other local measures, in a place whose commerce is so important as that of Alexandretta.

This resolution and the five succeeding ones all refer to the question of public works.

Such have been the abuses and robbery in any attempts at the execution of such (over 50,000*l.* having been spent on the *tronçons* of the Alexandretta-Aleppo road that have been executed) that the "Beladiyehs," or Municipal Councils, although having considerable balances in their chests in many cases, have no confidence in the honest execution by Government officials of such works, and would prefer to concede monopolies of traffic, &c., to foreign Companies, such as the Beyrouth-Damascus Road Company. The answer of the Porte, in the case of the tender of a similar Company here, proposed modifications which were tantamount to a refusal, and resolutions were accordingly passed for the construction of a road by the local Administration. A road is to be made uniting Diarbekir with Alexandretta, having a bridge over the Euphrates at Biredjik. I have pointed out in the matter of roads repeatedly to the Vali, the Commissioners, and Deputies, the desirability of not constructing portions of enormously wide paved *chaussées*—usually the easiest portions—which become useless unless the whole be finished, but of rather turning their attention first to the actual observations and obstacles in the way of wheeled traffic, to making the bridges, a firm track on boggy ground, blasting and cutting rock, &c., where necessary; in fact, to forming a wide enough track for wheeled vehicles to pass; traffic would at once follow. Metalling will probably cost 300*l.* a-mile—not less than 200*l.* Syria is a very dry country, and the roads without metalling would be practicable for at least eight months of the year; the muddiest parts might be metalled as soon as possible, and so on.

4. A resolution was passed recommending four days' forced labour for roads to be given by all inhabitants each year. For distances beyond twelve hours, payment instead of personal service.

5. A bridge over the Euphrates at Biredjik. The Biredjik Municipality is to make this, as it has in its chest 3,000,000 piastres, or between 20,000*l.* and 25,000*l.*, presumably chiefly amassed from ferry tolls. This seems a reasonable and sound undertaking.

6. The bridges of the Alexandretta road are to be made by the Aleppo Municipality. This has funds amounting to some 15,000*l.*

7. Waterways to be cut in Muslem Pasha's dam near Antioch.

This man has the concession or rights of a fishery, and his dam in the lower part of the Ak Su in the Antioch plain greatly aggravates, if it is not one of the main causes of the inundations in the Hamuk or Antioch plain. This plain is so excessively unhealthy that the formerly nomad Turkomans whom the Government has obliged to settle there are dwindling in numbers; they tell me their children die off, and that newly-born babes only survive the birth a few hours in the majority of cases.

8. The Beladiya, or Municipal Council of Aleppo, is to construct a public hospital.

9. Every three or four villages are to be formed into a nahiyyeh, or commune, an administrative unit for local affairs.

10. The Chief of the commune to be elected, and to receive a salary of 250 piastres per month.

11. The Redifs, or reservists, to go to the nearest military centre for the annual month's training.

For example, men from Beilan, near Alexandretta, go to Adana, 90 miles, instead of to Antioch, 25 miles. This is a question of military organization, of the exigencies of which the Assembly are very possibly ignorant. I have not here the local distribution of the V "Order," or "territorial Army Corps," of Syria, but in most cases the schemes are carefully drawn up on a European model, and it is in execution rather than theory that they are wanting.

12. Requisitions of animals for Government transport purposes to be abolished; the Government to pay according to a scale fixed by the Municipal Councils; the latter to treat directly with the drivers and teamsters, not with the middlemen or transport contractors, who retain 200 animals when 50 are required, and receive bribes for those that they let off.

13. The sale of tithes to be abolished. The tithes to be taken in kind as hitherto, but by a special department of the Government Administration, as is the case with the Customs.

14. The tithes to be collected in six portions, according to the seasons for the different crops, &c.

15. The tithes of grapes to be given in kind, not in money, as at present. This will prove very inconvenient for the Government, and is hardly likely to be accepted, as grapes are mostly sold by retail and not in any bulk. There are no wine makers on any scale in this country. The abuses of the present system in the valuation of the grape crops by the "Multezim," or tithe-farmer, has led to this resolution; in many cases, as your Excellency is aware, the cultivation of grapes has been abandoned. I may mention that fruits, market garden produce, &c., are valued, and the amount of the tithe paid in money. The contention is that the grape is a crop. The solution proposed does not seem feasible, and is much to the detriment of the Government. An equitable system of valuation would be preferable.

16. A resolution that the sale of tobacco should be free, instead of being, as now, sold "en banderoles," as a monopoly sold by Government, and that the duty should be 8 piastres per oke (2¾ lbs.) and 3 piastres de droit (? de consommation) = 11 piastres. This appears to be a requisite change. However well the "régie" may succeed in France, it is not applicable to an Administration so feeble and incapable of enforcing regulations as that of Turkey. At present the "Multezim" buys the monopoly of Government; the producer has no option but to accept the "Multezim's" terms, but recoups himself by contraband, on which the present system almost amounts to setting a premium. The result is, of course, a loss to the Government, not only from the low prices alone procurable from the "Multezims" for the contract, owing to the existence of an extensive contraband competition and from the cheapness of tobacco due to the combined causes, but also from the direct incentive the system gives to a limited production. The producer and the Government suffer, to the advantage of the consumer, the monopolist, and the merchant; the profits of the last, owing to the risks of contraband, are probably very considerable.

17. The export of cattle to be prohibited for a year. As a matter of fact, this prohibition has existed for years past; at any rate, in the case of cattle required for agricultural purposes, the "bakshish" finds means to render it a dead letter.

18. The Sandjak of Zor, the desert province of which Deir is the capital, to be an independent Mutessurifflik, as formerly, and to have a garrison of two battalions of regulars. A separate administrative organization has been drawn up by a special Committee.

The desert province, with its nomad Arab population, the time-honoured and chronic feuds of the Shamal and Amizeh Arabs, is a special district requiring special organization, a district of which the administration is excessively difficult. If accepted, the new organization (and some change appears a necessity) should be inaugurated by the Commission, who should be accompanied by a considerable military force. I have only to instance Dervish Pasha's expedition to the Ghour Dagh some fourteen years since, and the comparative tranquillity that still reigns in that once brigand-infested and lawless district, considering the burdens of conscription, taxation, &c., that have been imposed upon the people, and the actual feebleness of the Government executive, an indeed astonishing tranquillity, to emphasize the necessity and expediency of firm action at the outset. I hope to visit Deir later in the season.

19. The Idaré Medjliss, or Administrative Tribunals, to receive a completely new organization. According to the new laws transmitted from Constantinople for consideration, the members (unpaid notables) will no longer be elective, but chosen by the Government. Meanwhile, however, a complete change of all the existing Courts has been decided on.

The clause above alluded to—part of the new law of the vilayets elaborated two or three years ago at Constantinople—has been referred to the Provincial Council for discussion and observation. One of the "mashattahs," or resolutions is a protest against the enactment that the members of the "Cours de Première Instance," civil and criminal, are to be unpaid. (See No. 18 of the 20th August.) Another point wished for is to have eight, not six, members in the Idaré Medjliss, or Administrative Tribunals, and that the religious members (the Mufti *ex-officio*, and a representant for all the Christian communities) should be permanent for two years.

20. A "mashattah" has been signed, almost unanimously (one dissentient), to the effect that the independence of Tribunals of the local authority is not at present desirable.

21. *Public Instruction.*—That a sum amounting to 5 per cent. on all the revenues of the province, excepting the customs, be set aside for public instruction.

As regards the proposed general revision of land taxes and land valuation, a discussion ensued, the object of which was to point out its necessity merely as a partial, not as a general measure. I am not aware of the result of this. A discussion on the water supply and the preservation of forests is another point as to which I am ignorant if any result was arrived at. The separate paper, presented by the Christain members, contained requests on the following headings:—

1. Every President of a Court, or head of an administrative function of the Government, to have a Christian assistant ("Mouavin").

2. That a proportion of Christians (eligible for promotion to the highest offices in it) be included in the gendarmerie.

3. That the execution of the law insuring the equality of Moslem and Christain witnesses be enforced, and that all suits in which Christians are concerned be not referable to the "Cheri."

4. That 5 per cent. of the provincial revenues be at once assigned for public instruction.

5. That the bribery and corruption prevalent in all Departments of the Government Administration calls for immediate redress.

There were certain other points that I wished to have discussed, and on which I had privately given my views to some of the more intelligent members; but there was no time for this, and I believe nothing was done in the matter:—

1. The admission of Christians into the army.

2. The introduction of wheeled transport for agricultural and local purposes, as well as for commercial and passenger traffic.

3. Agriculture, and the introduction of certain crops.

4. The question of the right of bearing arms and its actual application.

5. Other points besides those discussed concerning public works, and local municipal works.

The moderation and judiciousness of the demands made in the above-mentioned resolutions will, I think, commend them to your Excellency, and indicate, as was so noticeable in the Ottoman Parliament in the spring of 1877, that, at any rate, there are inhabitants in the provinces cognizant of the immediate requisites, and capable of formulating demands worthy of being conceded; while the paper presented by the Christian members seems also to represent most reasonable demands, that have, indeed, already been conceded in principle, although it might not be possible to accept 1 and 4 in their entirety; two of the clauses, *i. e.*, 2 and 5, are very significant of the almost hopeless anarchy and inefficiency of the Administration which I have attempted to describe in my despatches; while the fact of Christian members, in face of Moslem opposition, having had the courage to take the course they have, speaks volumes for the urgency of the situation. I trust the above will appear satisfactory to your Excellency, and that the demands will meet with your support; but I cannot refrain from stating that, if I do not share to its fullest extent the despondency of the inhabitants as to the probability of any actual appreciable results, or the universal scepticism of the foreign residents, whether Consuls, merchants, or others, as to the will or power of the Porte to execute these changes if they accept them, and to maintain them effectively, not nominally, I am still far from being sanguine as to probable results. Who is to carry out these reforms; what will be the *personnel* of the Administration—the same venal, corrupt functionaries whose robbery and extortion has but increased too perceptibly from their appreciation of the precarious nature of the political situation since the war? Such is the question generally asked. If, as I hear is the case, the situation elsewhere generally is perceptibly and sensibly worse since the war, your Excellency will be, of course, aware of it. I can only state that, in this district, I do not aver it to be so from any reliance on my own experience or powers of observation, but because it is a fact evidenced by the overwhelming testimony of all classes, denominations, nationalities, and professions.

While, of course, it was a point beyond the competence of the Assembly to discuss, Christian and Moslem Notables, Turkish officials, when they speak to one confidentially, and all strangers alike, look to the introduction of European functionaries as the only chance. As regards justice, for example, however false their anticipations may prove, what confidence is there likely to be in the country as to improvements when the Inspector of Justice is a man that they believe (Russim Bey, Kadri Pasha's brother), rightly or wrongly, to be a fanatic, opposed to public instruction, and wedded to the traditions of the Cheri? At times, indeed, seeing such a satisfactory list of proposals as that of the Assembly, I feel inclined to think that frequent disappointment has soured and biassed the judgment of the majority, and that some good results

will accrue; but when I realize, again, the many existing excellent laws and regulations that are a dead letter, the history of the predecessors, and the actual antecedents of the present officials, I can only conclude that the majority is in the main right, that the work is so vast, the practical evils and abuses existing even in admirable institutions so considerable, that the Porte, even if it has the will, has not the capacity of performing this work unaided.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE,
Lieutenant, R.E.

No. 237.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 796.)
Therapia, September 2, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed to Mr. Michell by Her Majesty's Consul at Bourgas relative to the state of the Balkan of Aidos. I have authorized Mr. Brophy to accompany the Commission of Inquiry which is to be sent from Philippopoli into that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 237.

Consul Brophy to Consul-General Michell.

Bourgas, August 27, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your cypher telegram of the 23rd instant, in answer to mine of the 21st, which I understood to be as follows:—

"Yours of the 21st (received). The Governor-General has promised to send a Mixed Commission of Bulgarians and Turks those gift (to look) into facts reported by you."

On the 26th instant I again telegraphed to you:—

"I have to-day spoken with Commissioners returned from Aidos Balkan, and affairs appear to be even worse than has been thought. Will you give me authority to accompany Commission from Philippopoli, as there will be much intriguing and money spent to prevent the Commission learning the truth."

It appears that during the last eighteen months a most shameful system of tyranny and oppression (of which the primary object was the extortion of money) has been practised on the Turks by Bulgarian functionaries. From the report of Hafiz Effendi, a member of the District Council, sent by Mr. Ivan Petroff, Prefect of Bourgas, to the Aidos Balkan, it results that few Turkish villages in the Canton of Aidos have escaped paying sums of (per village) £ T. 50 to £ T. 300. These sums were levied by Bulgarian policemen on the arbitrary (and often verbal) order of the Bulgarian Governor (Naczalnik), or of other employés to whom, the policeman's commission being deducted, they were handed over for their private benefit.

The murders of militiamen, and, more lately, of two Bulgarian police officers and a Turkish employé in their company, appear (as I mentioned in my telegram of the 21st instant) to have been instigated by Bulgarian functionaries, and two Bulgarian peasants of Buyuk-Tchengné are supposed to have been amongst the actual murderers.

The object of the first crime seems to have been to create the impression that the Turks were more or less in a state of revolt, and so to cause reprisals by the Bulgarians, the effect of which would be to prevent Turkish villagers from carrying their complaints to Bourgas. Even now the Turks are generally obliged to travel by night to avoid the risk of being robbed and beaten.

In the second case of murder the Lieutenant of Police (Anton) had the reputation of being an honest man, and he and his companions are supposed to have been killed in order to prevent them bringing back complaints from the Turkish villages where they were going. The Bulgarian zaptieh of their troop, who "escaped," is suspected of being an accomplice.

In the Balkan of Aidos women have been violated, men have been literally beaten to death, or have had their limbs broken by Bulgarian Bashi-Bazouks and Bulgarian policemen. Hundreds of cattle have been stolen, and scores of houses have been plundered.

The head of this association of robbers and murderers is supposed to be a certain Vodinczaroff, formerly schoolmaster, and, during the Russian occupation, Governor of Aidos, but now employed in the Finance Department under M. Schmidt. Within the last two days he has been compelled to find security on a very minor charge brought against him, the object being to prevent his leaving the country. Three or four Bulgarian zaptiehs are in prison with a couple of Turks, and an officer of the gendarmerie is now under examination at Bourgas.

If the Commission promised by his Excellency the Governor-General does its duty I am convinced that a fearful tale of oppression will come to light, but, if justice be done on those who may be proved guilty, the consequence will be on the part of the Turks the beginning of confidence in the new Government, on the part of the Bulgarians a disinclination to embark in similar speculations, of which the liability proves not to be limited.

I am glad to be able to say that the Prefect of Bourgas, and a few other Bulgars whose patriotism is neither in their own lungs nor in their neighbours' pockets (this phrase is not mine, but translated literally from an expression used *ad hoc* by an educated Bulgarian), are most anxious that the guilty should receive condign punishment.

Unfortunately, the great majority has an idea that, by a distortion of the Lex Talionis, the Bulgarian has a newborn right to despoil the Turk, when, where, and how he may be able to do so.

As I am perfectly aware that every means of bribery and intimidation will be used to prevent the Philippopoli Commission arriving at the truth, I venture to press most urgently my request to be authorized to accompany the Commission, which will only act in my Consular district.

The authorities of Bourgas will not offer the slightest opposition to my joining the Commission.

In any case, I have to request that the Commission, when the Aidos Balkan is exhausted, shall receive orders to proceed to the Turkish villages of Achialo-Misseoria, and to report on what has taken place there since the month of January 1879.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BROPHY.

No. 238.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 798.)
Therapia, September 5, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE communicated to Safvet Pasha the substance of Consul Kirby Green's telegram, stating that some of the superior military officers desired him to inform me that the troops in the province, to the number of about 11,000, were on the point of being left without food. The stores of the intendance were almost completely exhausted, and the contractor declined to furnish more supplies, the Turkish Government being already in his debt for 30,000*l*. The officers and men talked of going home and living by pillage on the journey.

His Highness thanked me for the information, and said that he would at once apprize the Seraskier of the circumstances, which he considered very grave, and urge upon him the necessity of taking immediate measures for provisioning the troops in Albania; but he feared that, owing to the absolute penury of the Treasury, there

would be no little difficulty in inducing the contractor to continue to supply food for the soldiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 239.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 801.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter I have received from the Armenian Patriarch, informing me of the salutary effect produced by Lieutenant Kitchener's presence at Ada-Bazar, and requesting that his stay there might be prolonged for a few days.

I have telegraphed in this sense to Lieutenant Kitchener.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 239.

The Armenian Patriarch to Sir A. H. Layard.

Patriarcat Arménien, Constantinople, le 5 Septembre, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

SUR le Rapport du Vicaire Patriarcal Arménian de Nicomédie, je m'empresse de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence l'effet salutaire qu'a produit sur toute la population Chrétienne la présence à Ada Bazar de M. Kitchener, Vice-Consul de Castémouni.

Je suis persuadé, M. l'Ambassadeur, que l'enquête impartiale de M. Kitchener pourrait produire des résultats satisfaisants et calmer les craintes de la population, si votre Excellence voulait bien lui ordonner de prolonger encore pour quelques jours son séjour à Ada Bazar.

En espérant que votre Excellence voudra bien prendre en considération ma prière jointe à celle de tous les Chrétiens d'Ada Bazar, j'ai, &c.

Le Patriarche Arménien de Turquie,
(Signé) Archevêque NERSÈS.

No. 240.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 805.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 6, 1879.

SAFVET PASHA told me to-day that he is informed by Reouf Pasha that there are still about 80,000 Mussulmans, inhabitants of the Province of Adrianople, whose property has been destroyed by the Bulgarians, and who will be in danger of perishing from want unless means be found for their relief during the winter. The Porte is desirous of enabling these poor people to rebuild their villages and to sow their fields, but has no money to give them for these purposes.

Reouf Pasha has sent his treasurer to Constantinople to represent to the Turkish Government the urgent necessity of taking some measures to keep them from starvation, and Safvet Pasha is endeavouring to obtain a small advance from the Ottoman Bank for the purpose.

He has asked me to help him, but I fear that the bank is not likely to make further advances to the Porte without adequate security.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 241.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 806.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 6, 1879.

I HAD the honour of transmitting to your Lordship, in my despatches Nos. 753 and 782 of the 23rd ultimo and 1st instant, the Declaration presented by the Greek Commissioners at the first meeting of the Joint Commission for the delimitation of the new Greek frontier, and the Counter-Declaration of the Turkish Plenipotentiaries. I now beg to inclose the further Declaration of the Greek Commissioners given in at the third meeting held to-day, in which they decline to discuss whether the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin is obligatory or not, and insist anew that the frontier indicated therein must be taken as a basis for negotiations.

I would venture to offer a few observations to your Lordship on the present position of Turkey and Greece with regard to each other in this question.

It appears to me that the Greek Commissioners were not justified in demanding, as a condition for resuming the negotiations broken off at Prevesa, that the Porte should previously accept what they term the "stipulations" of the 13th Protocol, that the valleys of the Kalamas and Peneus should form the new frontier of Greece as the basis for discussion. Passing over the assumption of the Greek Government, that the 13th Protocol is obligatory on the Turkish Government, and that the frontier-line indicated therein must be accepted as a "point de départ," and not as a simple recommendation to be considered and discussed, it seems to be unusual that one of the parties to a conference should declare, as the condition upon which he enters it, that the question at issue shall be decided in his favour before it has even been examined and been the subject of negotiation. What, then, would be the use of the Conference? In the present instance, the Declaration required of the Porte is so worded that, if it be agreed to, it will have the effect of binding the Turks to give to Greece, as the smallest concession, the line of frontier formed by the two valleys in question, whilst it leaves the Greeks at liberty to ask for more, and debars the Porte from proposing less.

The Counter-Declaration of the Turkish Commissioners seems to me to be in accordance with, and justified by, the 13th and 18th Protocols of Berlin. It points out that the President of the Congress admitted that, in suggesting a line for the rectification of the Greek frontier, "the Congress expressed a wish, and not a resolution, with which the Porte should be asked to identify itself." It states the readiness of the Porte to accept the recommendations of the Congress as a basis for negotiations, on condition that they do not bind either party, but that each may freely discuss and propose modifications in the frontier-line indicated in the 13th Protocol. The Greek Government refuses to accept this basis for discussion, and declares that it considers that Protocol obligatory as regards Greece.

It is to be presumed that, unless the Turkish Commissioners, at the next meeting, are prepared to make the Declaration upon which the Greek Government insists, it will break off the negotiations, and will appeal to the Signatory Powers for their mediation, under the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin. That Article provides that, in the event of the Sublime Porte and Greece being unable to agree upon the rectification of the frontier suggested in the 13th Protocol, the Powers reserve to themselves to offer their mediation to the two parties to "facilitate the negotiations." No negotiations, in the strict sense of the term, have yet taken place at Constantinople. The question of the new frontier-line has not been touched. Preliminary Declarations and Counter-Declarations have been exchanged, and that is all. Can the mediation of the Powers be claimed in the present stage of the proceedings, without any materials being placed before them for forming a judgment, except these documents? If their opinion is sought upon the merits of the case as it now stands, I venture to think that no impartial or unprejudiced person could hesitate in arriving at the conclusion that, so far, the Porte is in the right. If the mediation is to be exercised simply "to facilitate negotiations," the only advice that could be given to Greece is to enter upon them, and to bring them to such an issue that, if the mediation of the Powers becomes necessary, they may have before them the case of both sides—what Greece demands and what Turkey is prepared to cede, and the arguments in support of their respective contentions. A discussion on the merits of the Greek Declarations and the Turkish Counter-Declarations could, it seems to me, lead to no other practical result.

It would scarcely be just or equitable on the part of the mediating Powers to call upon Turkey to give a certain line of frontier to Greece without first hearing what she

may have to say on the subject. The case of the Porte may be a very strong one. It may be able to prove to the Powers that it could not agree to the proposed extension of the Greek frontier without serious consequences to the Empire, and even to Europe. It might even be able to convince Greece that, in her own interests, it would be desirable that a part of the territory which she claims should not be ceded to her. It may fail in doing either, or in persuading the Powers to change their opinions; but at any rate it will not have to complain that it has been refused a fair hearing, and that the Powers have decided against Turkey without the knowledge and consideration of facts, upon which alone a just and impartial judgment could be formed.

The main question now at issue between Turkey and Greece is the cession of Janina. The Porte maintains that the Albanians would oppose it by force of arms; that if it attempted to coerce them an insurrection in Albania, which the Turkish Government would find itself unable to suppress, would be the result; that foreign interference might then become necessary, and the "Eastern Question" would be reopened. On the other hand, the Greek Government contend that if there be any opposition on the part of the Albanians to the surrender of Janina it is promoted and encouraged by the Porte itself, and that they are not only willing but desirous that it should belong to Greece. Which is right we have, at present, no means of knowing, as we are not yet acquainted with the proofs and facts which both parties may be able to produce in support of their assertions. When talking over these matters with Safvet Pasha, privately and unofficially, I have advised him most earnestly to consider them with the strictest impartiality, and without allowing his judgment to be biased by exaggerated statements, or by menaces from either side. There could be no doubt, I have pointed out, that the cession of Janina to Greece would very much facilitate the settlement of this question, and might lead to the establishment of relations between her and the Porte which would be of the greatest advantage to Turkey herself, especially if England and France were prepared, as they appeared to be, to give a guarantee that they would not countenance any demands that Greece might hereafter put forward for further increase of territory at her neighbour's expense. If Janina remained in the possession of Turkey, I said, Greece would not be satisfied till she had obtained it, and she would keep up a constant agitation, through her Agents and her intrigues, amongst the Christians of Epirus. The Porte would be compelled to take measures to maintain its authority in the province that might again compromise it in the eyes of Europe, and lead to another foreign intervention. The end would probably be that, sooner or later, Greece would obtain what she wanted. Again, if the Powers were to decide that Janina should remain to Turkey, it is probable that France, supported by them, would insist that additional territory in Thessaly should be given to Greece by way of compensation, and it is believed that the pass of Mezzovo would be included in it. This pass commands Janina and Epirus, and its possession would consequently greatly facilitate the designs of Greece upon that town and province. The result would be that Turkey, by refusing to cede Janina at the present time, and by being compelled to give the Greeks a territorial compensation in order to keep it, might end by losing it, as well as that part of Thessaly which would be preserved to her if she accepted the line recommended by the Congress.

On the other hand, I have admitted to Safvet Pasha that if the cession to Greece of Janina, by violating the national feeling and rights of the Albanians, would really bring about a serious insurrection in Albania, which might endanger the existence of the Turkish Empire in Europe, as some pretend, and render foreign intervention necessary, the Powers, if persuaded of this fact, could scarcely with justice and prudence insist upon the Porte agreeing to it. At the same time, his Highness must, I have said, bear in mind that if the opposition of the Albanians was not a genuine one, but could be proved to have been instigated, connived at, or encouraged by the Turkish Government, it would be held responsible for the results and would have to bear the consequences.

Safvet Pasha has expressed his conviction to me that the determination of the Albanians to resist the cession of Janina and Epirus to Greece is genuine, and has not been promoted or encouraged by the Porte, which is quite unable to restrain them, and might involve itself in a civil war were it to attempt to do so. Their opposition, his Highness says, is founded mainly upon three grounds:—

1. That Janina, although not originally the capital of Albania, has been so from the beginning of this century, and is now so considered.

2. That if Prevesa and the Gulf of Arta be given to Greece, there will be no outlet for the produce of Albania, which will be without a port on the Adriatic; and

3. That they will be deprived of the plains into which their flocks have been accustomed to descend from the mountains in winter from time immemorial, and without which those flocks would perish.

Further arguments are advanced by the Porte, such as, that without the possession of Prevesa and the Gulf of Arta it will have no access by sea to Albania; that if deprived of them, the Albanians will have to seek a port to the north of the province, and will thus be driven to enter into political connection with foreign States; that if Janina be given to Greece, it will be necessary for the Turkish Government to employ permanently a large force to keep down the Albanians; and that a certain foreign Government will avail itself of the discontent and disaffection which will be created in the province to promote its design of detaching it from the Turkish Empire.

These various considerations and arguments, together with the most ample geographical and ethnological details with respect to the country through which the new frontier-line is to pass, should, it appears to me, be fully before the Powers, or their Representatives at Constantinople, before they are in a position to mediate, to form an opinion, and to come to a decision.

The most practical way of dealing with the question as it now stands would, I am of opinion, be to advise Greece to enter upon the negotiations unconditionally, and without further loss of time. She may then propose the line of frontier indicated by the 13th Protocol, as she understands it, or any other line. If the Porte rejects her proposal it will have to give its reasons for doing so, and will have to declare how far, and in what direction, it is prepared to yield. When each side has said its last word, so that nothing more can come of negotiations, then will be the time for an appeal to the Powers for their mediation, and they will have before them the materials for coming to a sound and equitable judgment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 241.

Memorandum on last Séance of Greek Frontier Commission.

LA réponse que MM. les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman se sont plu à donner dans la séance du Dimanche $\frac{4}{17}$ Août, à la déclaration faite par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes dans la première séance, a deux parties bien distinctes.

1. MM. le Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ayant été priés par leurs collègues Hellènes de déclarer s'ils acceptaient, comme base des négociations à reprendre, les stipulations du Protocole 13 du Congrès de Berlin, ont allégué, avant de répondre à cette question, que le Protocole 13 n'avait aucune force obligatoire, et ne contenait qu'un vœu du Congrès; ils ont invoqué les paroles prononcées dans le Congrès par son Excellence le premier Plénipotentiaire de France, lors de la proposition faite par lui et concernant la rectification de frontières Helléniques; ils ont répété les arguments, mis en avant à Preveza par les Commissaires de la Sublime Porte, comme il appert des Protocoles 1 and 3 des séances des Commissaires des deux pays.

2. Après cela les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, répondant à la question posée par leurs collègues Hellènes, à savoir, s'ils acceptaient ou non, comme base des négociations à reprendre, ces stipulations du Protocole 13, ils ont déclaré "qu'ils sont disposés par considération pour le vœu exprimé par les Puissances à prendre comme bases premières des négociations qui vont s'ouvrir, les indications mentionnées au dit Protocole, pourvu qu'il soit bien entendu que ces bases ne tient en aucune façon les deux Gouvernements, qui pourraient librement le discuter, et les modifier au même titre que tel autre point de départ qui aurait pu être proposé par l'une ou l'autre des parties."

Quant à ce qui regarde la première partie de cette réponse des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, bien que les Commissaires du Gouvernement Hellénique à Preveza aient déjà réfuté de pareilles allégations faites par les Commissaires Ottomans, comme il appert du Protocole 4 de leurs séances, néanmoins les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique ont l'honneur de faire remarquer que si le Gouvernement Ottoman regarde le Protocole 10 comme n'ayant pour lui aucune force obligatoire, le Gouvernement Hellénique, auquel, par le susdit Protocole, fut adressée la même invitation qu'à la Sublime Porte, le regarde comme ayant pour lui—le Gouvernement Hellénique—une force obligatoire; par conséquent il pense ne pouvoir s'en écarter. Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes sont d'ailleurs d'avis que la manière de penser de chacune des deux parties

sur la force du dit Protocole est un objet étranger à la question posée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, qui ont prié leurs collègues de déclarer s'ils acceptent ou non les stipulations du Protocole 13 comme base des négociations à entamer.

Quant à ce qui regarde la seconde partie de la réponse des Plenipotentiaires Ottomans, ceux du Gouvernement Hellénique ont l'honneur de faire remarquer, que si leurs collègues acceptent comme bases des négociations à reprendre les indications du Protocole 13, ainsi qu'ils l'ont déclaré, il ne serait pas compatible avec une pareille déclaration que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans se réservent néanmoins la faculté de modifier cette base, ou de s'en départir même pendant le cours des négociations. L'acceptation d'une base quelconque par les Plénipotentiaires des deux pays les oblige, les uns aussi bien que les autres, à ne pas s'éloigner de cette base. La liberté que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans voudraient réserver aux deux parties d'abandonner ou de modifier pendant le cours des négociations la base une fois posée, met complétement à néant la décision de l'accepter.

Par ces causes les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, tout en étant de l'avis que leur demande adressée à leurs collègues dans la première séance était suffisamment claire, il se font un devoir de la leur adresser de nouveau, et prient leurs Excellences les Plénipotentiaires de la Sublime Porte de bien vouloir déclarer s'ils acceptent comme base de leurs négociations les indications du Protocole 13, à savoir, la vallée du Peneus (Salambryà) sur le versant de la Mer d'Egée, et celle du Calamas, du côté de la Mer Ionienne.

Les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique aiment à espérer que leurs collègues Ottomans, animés de l'esprit de conciliation qui seul pourrait mener à bonne fin l'arrangement de la question, voudront bien donner à cette demande une réponse claire et précise.

No. 212.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 807.) *Therapia, September 7, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch, addressed to me by Lieutenant Kitchener, as to the present state of the district of Ada-Bazar, and of a *note verbale* that I have presented to the Porte on the subject.

I am informed that Djevat Bey, who, I am assured, is an energetic and trustworthy officer, is to be sent at once to Ada Bazar with instructions to take the necessary measures for the protection of the population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 212.

Lieutenant Kitchener to Sir A. H. Layard.

Ada-Bazar, September 3, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received a large number of petitions from Mahommedans as well as Christians with reference to the outrages committed in this district by the Circassians.

The result of these cases appears to be that the Circassians rob with impunity upon the public roads and in houses, occasionally using violence; that they drive the owners of land off their properties and take the harvest; at the same time the proprietors have to pay taxes to the Government on land they cannot visit. In some parts agriculture is quite stopped, the Circassians having robbed the people of all their horses and cattle and occupied their land. The inhabitants of several villages declare they can no longer exist if this state of things continues.

Mesaulu Ahmet, Mussulman Headman of the village of Mokakeui, states he has been robbed of all he possessed by the Circassians, who have ruined his village; though he knows the offenders, the Government will do nothing. He further states that he was to-day put in prison because he was coming to complain of his case.

Ramulu Usuf, Armenian, of the village of Agat-Chilli, states: Six weeks ago he

was stopped on the road by seven Circassians, who robbed him of his horse, clothes, and 7,000 piastres.

Fifteen days ago he bought a horse, which was stolen next day.

Twelve days ago, with three others, he was robbed on the road in day-time by seven Circassians, and was left naked.

Seven days ago the Circassians entered his house by night and cleared him out completely. He states he is now ruined.

The Government have taken no steps.

Sofset Kusa Arshat, Mahommedan woman, from Karyalla, states she was robbed of all she had, and her husband killed. The Circassians were taken, and she was able to prove the case, but they have been allowed to escape.

Jambaz Ohannes, Armenian, of Ada-Bazar, has been robbed in the last year of five horses, with merchandize. He found Circassians, but nothing was done. One month ago Circassians stole his cow at Sahanja; his brother was beaten to death. Last Tuesday, with others, he was attacked on the road by seven Circassians and robbed of all he possessed. Case was proved in Court, but the robbers have since been let out of prison.

Nazaretyan, one of the richest Armenians of Ada-Bazar, had his shop broken open last Sunday, and was robbed of 510 liras. He declares he cannot get justice.

The priests and Turkish Headmen of village of Ferizli state their fields are occupied by Circassians; they cannot work, and have to pay taxes. They know the Circassians well, but can get no justice. Long list of cows, buffaloes, and horses stolen.

Deputation from Yenikeui to the same effect.

Deputation (two Christians and one Mussulman) from Sheikler to same effect. They state that 3,000 dunums are left out of cultivation: that they are ruined, and can no longer exist. Last night the Circassians stole a pair of buffaloes.

Mehmet, Mahommedan, of Hankakeui, had his cow stolen last April; he petitioned the Government, for which the Circassians beat him and took all he had. Many others in his village have suffered considerably, their houses having been robbed and burnt, and their fields are occupied by Circassians. They used to have forty pairs of buffaloes, and now have only ten pairs. He declares they can no longer exist if such a state of things continues.

Petition from village of Kayalar Kroli, signed by Armenians and Turks, states that they have to pay black-mail to Kambulkat Bey. Haji Kassimoln, from the same village, states that he has been robbed of all he possessed by Kambulkat Bey.

Stepham, Armenian, of Ada-Bazar, was robbed on the road, cut down with a sabre, and received a ball in his head; he barely survived. Knows the Circassians; but the Government will do nothing.

Representative of Greek village of Santonain states that, during the last year, one boy has been killed, and presents a long list of animals stolen; states that their grounds are occupied by the Circassians by force, and that when the Government was petitioned, the Circassians burnt their houses.

Mehmet Hendakliolu, of Kainas, has been robbed, in the last nine months, of two buffaloes, one cow, and one ox; he has petitioned the Government without any result.

Thirty more cases of similar robberies have occurred lately, and one case of murder.

I beg to recommend to your Excellency that a superior Turkish official, with full powers, and a force of regular troops, be sent to this district without loss of time.

I am convinced that if some cases were severely dealt with the present state of insecurity would cease.

I have to-day telegraphed to inform your Excellency of the departure of the Turkish Commissioner, Ibrahim Bey.

I have received a deputation from the Armenian Greek and Protestant communities, headed by the Armenian Bishop, to ask my advice under the circumstances.

The only official left is the acting Kaimakam, who is a Circassian, and who has only one or two Circassian zaptiehs under his orders. The Christians express their great alarm, and implore your Excellency to move the Porte to send them some prompt assistance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. H. KITCHENER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 242.

Note Verbale.

Therapia, September 6, 1879.

HER Majesty's Embassy submits to the Sublime Porte, with the greatest regret, a report that it has received on the present condition of the district of Aga-Bazar. Murders, robberies, and every manner of outrage appear to be rife in it. Those who commit them are Circassians. They are well known to the Turkish authorities, yet no steps are taken to check these misdeeds or to punish them. When arrested they are released or permitted to escape. Her Majesty's Embassy is informed, that if they were severely dealt with the present state of insecurity would cease. It would appear absolutely necessary that a superior Turkish official with full powers and a sufficient force of regular troops should be sent to the district of Ada-Bazar without loss of time, and that measures should be taken for the protection of its unfortunate population. Her Majesty's Embassy desires to call the most serious attention of the Porte to this matter.

No. 243.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 808.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 7, 1879.

WITH reference to Consul Sandwith's despatch to your Lordship No. 62 of the 31st ultimo (copy of which he transmitted to me), I have done my best to prevail upon Said Pasha to approve of M. Scalsounis' appointment by Photiades Pasha as President of the Court of Appeal in Crete. He seems to have been somewhat offended by what he considers my interference in this matter; but Aarifi Pasha, to whom I spoke on the subject, took a more reasonable view, and assured me that the appointment should not be interfered with. I have consequently advised Photiades Pasha privately to maintain it, notwithstanding the opposition of the Minister of Justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 244.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 813.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 9, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a *note verbale*, which I have addressed to the Porte relative to the proceedings of a Commission sent by the Governor-General of Erzeroum, to inquire into and redress the grievances of the Christian inhabitants of the district of Geghi. I have sent a copy of the Report upon which this note is founded to Major Trotter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 244.

Note Verbale.

Therapia, September 9, 1879.

IN consequence of the representations of Her Majesty's Embassy on behalf of the Christian inhabitants of the district of Geghi, in the Vilayet of Erzeroum, a Vizirial order was, it is understood, sent by the Sublime Porte to the Governor-General of that province, directing him to inquire into their grievances, and to afford them protection and redress. His Excellency accordingly sent a Commission into the district composed of six members, four Mussulmans and two Christians. Her Majesty's Ambassador is greatly grieved to find that this Commission, instead of doing

justice to the population and listening to their complaints with a view to affording them redress, has apparently, by its proceedings, added to their sufferings and rendered their condition, if possible, even more deplorable than it was before. According to a report which Her Majesty's Ambassador has received, the Bimbashi who presided over the Commission summoned the villagers of Hor-hor first. This officer opened the Court with a violent speech in the strongest language, reprimanding them for their constant complaining. The villagers stating that Hadji Bey drove them to forced labour, took forcibly their animals for his own use, and that he compelled them to serve him the whole of Sunday, the Bimbashi treated their representations with contempt, and abused them for having preferred them. The villagers were then ordered to appear the next day, which, being Sunday, they refused to do, and were therefore sent to prison, being, however, released through the interference of the Kaïmakam, a good bail, to appear on Sunday. Meantime orders came from the Imperial Commissioners not to proceed with the investigation, for this Commission was sent to Geghi by the Vali against the wishes of the British Consul and the Imperial Commission. It should also be remarked that the Moslem members of the Commission under the Bimbashi were the guests of the very Beys whose deeds they had come to investigate.

This Embassy have also been informed that Hadji Bey of Hor-hor, arming his followers, has made a savage attack upon the village, beating a great number of villagers and seriously wounding eight persons. One of the Bey's sons was arrested, but on the testimony of the Moslems in his favour he was acquitted. These two Moslem witnesses were men who had themselves participated in the deeds of violence. It also appears that Ismail Bey, of Temran, has deprived the villagers of their pasture and woodlands and their water supply, and injures them besides by letting loose his animals upon their cornfields, and takes away a large portion of what they gather from distant places to feed their animals, not to speak of the forced services they are driven to perform and the punishment to which they are subjected.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 245.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 814.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 9, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram from the Governor-General of Aleppo, which has been communicated to me by the Porte, reporting the steps he has taken in order to improve the condition of the prisons at Marash. These measures have been adopted in consequence of the representations I have made to the Porte on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 245.

The Vali of Aleppo to Safvet Pasha.

(Télégraphique.)

Aleppo, le $\frac{9}{21}$ *Août*, 1879.

DES ordres avaient été déjà transmis au Mutessarif de Marash pour améliorer les conditions des prisons de Marash. Un fonctionnaire spécial avait été désigné et envoyé sur les lieux pour constater la situation et rendre compte du résultat des ses investigations. D'après un télégramme, il résulte que quarante Turcs détenus ont été transportés des dites prisons à la caserne militaire. On a pris des dispositions pour régler la ventilation, et les détenus se promènent toute la journée dans le préau; le soir ils rentrent dans leurs cellules. Toutefois nous ne manquerons pas de correspondre avec les autorités locales afin d'améliorer encore davantage ces conditions actuelles de l'établissement pénitencier si le besoin se fera sentir.

No. 246.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 207.)
Bucharest, September 8, 1879.

My Lord,

M. BOERESCO has not returned to Bucharest, as was expected, from Vienna, where he had an interview with Count Andrassy, and where he saw the Italian Ambassador, Count Robillant; he started for Rome.

The discussions in the Chambers on the Jewish question cannot, therefore, be resumed before Monday the 15th instant.

Count Tornielli, the future Italian Envoy at this Court, is supposed to be going to Belgrade, in the meantime, on a special mission from his Court; but it is believed and hoped here that the formal recognition of Roumania on the part of Italy will not be deferred much longer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 247.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 210.)
Bucharest, September 8, 1879.

My Lord,

AS considerable misgivings appear to have arisen on the subject of M. Boeresco's mission to foreign Courts, it may be as well that I should report to your Lordship that I believe that the communications which he was allowed to make by this Government, especially those which differed from the statements previously made by the Finance Minister, M. Stourdza, at Berlin, corresponded rather with the personal views of the new Foreign Minister than with the decisions arrived at by the collective Cabinet.

This is certainly a strange mode of proceeding, and may appear incredible, but M. Bratiano, finding that a dozen more votes might enable him to solve the Jewish question, took three colleagues from the Opposition benches in his new Cabinet, and amongst these M. Boeresco, who made his foreign tour one of the conditions of accepting office. Having, by his intimate intercourse with some of the foreign Missions at Bucharest, persuaded himself and most people here that his appointment was most acceptable at Vienna and at Berlin, he induced his colleagues to let him proceed abroad on his own errand and responsibility, and as a counterpart of the journey of M. Stourdza, to whom he has a strong dislike.

Strange to say, the progress of M. Boeresco has on that account been represented as a success by the Opposition journals at Bucharest, and as an ill-disguised failure by the Ministerial ones.

It remains to be seen what will be the relations of M. Boeresco with his colleagues after his return.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 248.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 49.)
Constantinople, September 8, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, Protocols 45 to 49, recording the proceedings of the Commission of which I am a member.

I hope to be able to forward by the next messenger the maps of the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia from the Black Sea to the River Tundja. There has been unavoidable delay in their reproduction, owing to the Turkish Topographical Department being at present also engaged in reproducing the maps for the southern frontier of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major*,
93rd Highlanders.

Inclosure 1 in No. 248.

Protocole No. 45.—Séance du 3 Juillet, 1879, à Dolastar.

Président, M. le Capitaine TORNAGHI.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoint, M. le Major Rifat Bey.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 44 est lu et adopté.

La Commission, après avoir parcouru la vallée de l'Arda depuis le village d'Adatchali jusqu'à celui d'Hadji-Oghlourari, et connu le terrain qui s'étend au nord de ce dernier village depuis le cours de l'Arda jusqu'à la crête qui forme le partage des eaux entre la Maritza au nord et l'Arda au sud, arrête comme il suit le tracé de la frontière.

A partir du point déterminé dans le lit de l'Arda près du gué de Déirmen-Guetchit, non loin du village d'Adatchali, la frontière suit le thalweg de l'Arda jusqu'au confluent de cette rivière avec le Teham-Déré (Yaïladjik-Déré de la Carte Autrichienne), le village de Hissar-Alti-keui situé à l'Ouest de ce confluent restant à la Turquie, celui de Konroudja-Viran, situé à l'est du même confluent, restant à la Roumélie Orientale.

A partir de ce point, elle quitte le thalweg de l'Arda pour suivre jusqu'à son origine celui du Teham-Déré et atteindre la ligne de partage des eaux entre l'Arda et la Maritza au lieu dit Arpa-Guédik, près d'un rocher remarquable connu sous le nom de Kiz-Kaya. Les villages de Hissar-Alti-keui, de Hassankeui, et de Raka, dont quelques habitations sont situées sur la rive gauche du Teham-Déré (lequel prend le nom de Raka-Déré en amont de Hassan-keui, puis celui de Kiz-Kaya-Déré ou Arpa-Guédik-Déré en amont de son confluent avec l'Ambar-Déré), sont rattachés en totalité à la Turquie, le tracé de la frontière, aux points où celle-ci quitte le thalweg pour contourner les maisons dont il s'agit, devant être arrêté définitivement en séance à Constantinople sur la minute des levers réguliers, conformément à la résolution prise par la Commission dans la séance du 28 Juin.

Le tracé ci-dessus est adopté à la majorité de 6 voix contre 1. La voix de la minorité est celle de M. le Colonel Philippoff, qui déclare ne pouvoir l'accepter quant à la partie comprise entre le village d'Hassan-keui et Kiz-Kaya, la reconnaissance qui a été faite ne lui paraissant pas suffisante pour apprécier si la direction de la frontière entre ces deux points est bien conforme à celle qui est stipulée dans le Traité de Berlin. Il n'a d'ailleurs aucune objection à faire quant à la partie restante du tracé entre Hassankeui et Adatchali.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 248.

Protocole No. 46.—Séance tenue le 8 Juillet, 1879, à Kustendjik.

Président, M. le Capitaine TORNAGHI.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoint, M. le Major Rifat Bey.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 45 est lu et adopté.

La Commission ayant achevé la reconnaissance du terrain entre la hauteur d'Arpa-Guédik, près de Kiz-Kaya, et le Mont de Krushowa, arrête comme il suit le tracé de la frontière.

A partir du point précédemment déterminé à Arpa-Guédik près de Kis-Kaya, jusqu'au Mont Krushowa, la frontière suit constamment la ligne géométrique de partage des eaux entre la Maritza au nord et l'Arda au sud.

D'après les renseignements pris auprès des gens du pays, les points principaux de cette ligne sont successivement en allant de l'est à l'ouest : les hauteurs de Kiz-Kaya et d'Akowa et le col de Haremli-Guédik, dont l'ensemble forme la chaîne du Karakolas-Dagh, puis les hauteurs d'Inaban-Baba, de Tchil-Tépé, Imaret-Tchali, Momina-Vodo, Setchenek-Serti, Paslutchista-Koulé (Cepoli-Dagh de la Carte Autrichienne) Karamandji-Balkan, Echek-Kulaghi, Kouzou-Yataghi, le col de Meza,-Guédik où la chaîne de Karlik-Dagh se détache de la chaîne de partage, enfin le Mont de Krushowa, connu dans le pays sous le nom de Baïram-Yéri, et qui est l'origine commune de trois bassins, savoir : celui de la Maritza au nord, celui du Mesta-Karasou au sud-ouest, et celui de l'Arda au sud-est.

La ligne dont il s'agit court généralement du nord-est au sud-ouest ; elle ne coupe aucun centre de population.

Le tracé ci-dessus est accepté à l'unanimité. Toutefois, en ce qui concerne le point de départ à Kiz-Kaya, M. le Colonel Philippoff se réfère à la déclaration qu'il a faite dans la séance précédente.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
N. PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 3 in No. 248.

Protocole No. 47.—Séance tenue le 16 Juillet, 1879, à Abramowa.

Président, M. le Colonel PHILIPPOFF.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 46 est lu et adopté.

La Commission ayant achevé la reconnaissance de la frontière depuis le Mont Krushowa jusqu'au point de jonction avec la frontière de Bulgarie, arrête à l'unanimité le tracé comme il suit :

Depuis le Mont Krushowa jusqu'au point culminant de la hauteur de Mantchou, où elle se rattache à la frontière de Bulgarie, la frontière suit constamment la ligne géométrique de partage des eaux entre la Maritza au nord et le Mesta-Karasou au sud.

D'après les renseignements recueillis auprès des gens du pays, les points remarquables de cette ligne sont en allant de l'est à l'ouest :

La hauteur de Chabanitza et celle de Dikili-tach, où le Kaïntchal-Dagh se détache de la chaîne de partage ; la hauteur de Chahin-Kiran-Tépéssi, et le col de Koulaous-Guédik que traverse la route de Tatar-Bazardjik à Novrecop ; les différentes hauteurs qui forment la chaîne connue sous le nom de Dospad-Dagh et dont les principales sont celles de Soudjak-Yaïlalari, Lupowa-Baïr, Véliteha-Baïr, Mango-Tépé et Abramowa sur laquelle se trouve le village de ce nom ; puis les hauteurs de Tchista-Tépé, Kara-Tépé, Tchadir-Tépé, Sungurlu, où la chaîne de partage prend la direction de l'est à l'ouest, Ravemitchal, Sivri-Tach, Tchinguiané-Tchal et Mantchou, où la frontière de Roumélie rejoint celle de Bulgarie :

La hauteur de Mantchou correspond à celle qui est désignée sur la Carte Autrichienne sous le nom de Tchadir-Tépé ; elle est l'origine commune de trois bassins, savoir : celui de l'Iskér au nord-ouest, celui de la Maritza au nord-est, et celui du Mesta-Karasou au sud. La hauteur connue dans le pays sous le nom de Tchadir-Tépé se trouve au sud et à 8 kilom. environ de celle de Sungurlu.

Depuis la hauteur de Dikili-Tach jusqu'à celle de Sungurlu, la ligne ci-dessus décrite suit une direction générale du sud-est au nord-ouest ; à partir de la hauteur de Sungurlu jusqu'à celle de Manchou, elle se dirige de l'est à l'ouest.

Elle passe à proximité du village d'Inipli qui reste à la Roumélie et de ceux de Jilandzi, de Durlu-Koulibeleri et d'Abramowa, qui sont rattachés à la Turquie.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
COUMMERAU.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 4 in No. 248.

Protocole No. 48.—*Séance tenue le* 31 *Juillet*, 1879, *à Constantinople, à Galata-Séraï.*

Président, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel CHAKIR BEY.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 47 est lu et adopté.

M. le Président rappelle que la Commission a terminé ses opérations sur le terrain et qu'il ne lui reste plus qu'à dresser l'acte diplomatique réglant la frontière et la carte à l'appui. Le travail pourrait être entrepris immédiatement pour la partie de frontière comprise entre la Mer Noire et la Toundja, mais à la condition que M. le Colonel Philippoff voulût bien remettre à la Commission le lever de la région comprise entre Delirachou et Belevrin. (Voir Protocole No. 37.)

M. le Colonel Philippoff présente à la Commission la feuille qui comprend le Mont Vosna au centre et les villages de Kalova à l'est et d'Evreneskeui à l'ouest. M. le Secrétaire met à son tour sous les yeux de la Commission les plans dont il est le dépositaire. L'examen de ces divers documents permet de reconnaître exactement les lacunes qu'ils présentent.

M. le Président demande alors à M. le Colonel Philippoff s'il est en mesure de fournir les feuilles correspondant aux lacunes constatées, ainsi que les feuilles comprenant la zone frontière entre Toundja et Maritza, qu'il serait également très-désirable d'avoir pour les comparer avec le lever qui a été fait l'année dernière.

M. le Colonel Philippoff répond qu'il a télégraphié au Directeur du Service Topographique pour lui réclamer ces documents; il donne la promesse formelle qu'ils seront fournis à la Commission, mais il ne peut encore dire à quelle date. Il va de nouveau envoyer un télégramme au Directeur du Service Topographique pour avoir des renseignements positifs à cet égard, et s'empressera de communiquer à la Commission la réponse de ce chef de service dès qu'elle lui sera parvenue. Mais il peut dès à présent déclarer que les cartes dont il s'agit seront remises à la Commission en temps

utile, et qu'il n'y aura de ce chef aucun obstacle de nature à retarder l'achèvement définitif des travaux.

La Commission prend acte de cette déclaration.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
N. PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 5 in No. 248.

Protocole No. 49.—*Séance tenue le* 18 *Août*, 1879, *à Constantinople, à Galata-Séraï.*

Président, M. le Capitaine KRAHMER.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoint, M. le Major Rifat Bey.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 48 est lu et adopté.

A l'ouverture de la séance, *M. le Colonel Philippoff* déclare que n'ayant pu s'entendre par un échange de dépêches avec M. le Directeur du Service Topographique à Roustchouk, il est parti pour cette ville, où il a obtenu communication des minutes des levers nécessaires pour compléter la carte de la frontière entre la Mer Noire et la Toundja. Un officier topographe, qu'il a ramené avec lui de Roustchouk, est en ce moment occupé à en faire les copies, qui seront prêtes dans quelques jours. Quant aux cartes de la région comprise entre Toundja et Maritza, il a reçu avis du Chef de la Section Topographique de l'Etat-Major Général à St. Pétersbourg que les copies sont en cours d'exécution et que, aussitôt terminées, elles seront envoyées à Constantinople.

En ce qui concerne les levers du Rhodope, M. le Colonel Philippoff annonce que toutes les mesures ont été prises par M. le Capitaine Paulozoff pour hâter leur achèvement, et qu'à moins de circonstances tout-à-fait imprévues, ils seront prêts le 22 Septembre prochain. Il ajoute que les planchettes, aussitôt terminées, seront expédiées directement à Constantinople.

M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne rappelle que le travail, réparti entre cinq officiers topographes, a dû être commencé le 28 Juin. La distance entre les points extrêmes étant au plus de 250 kilom. et largeur de la bande à lever de 5 kilom., le travail aurait dû être achevé en vingt-cinq jours, en supposant que chaque topographe lève par jour 2 kilom. courants de frontière, soit en rectangle de 10 kilom. carrés de surface. Il ne peut donc pas s'expliquer le délai de trois mois demandé par le Colonel Philippoff, et comme un pareil ajournement est contraire aux instructions qu'il a reçues, il va en référer à son Gouvernement.

M. le Commissaire de Russie conteste les chiffres cités par M. le Major Gordon. L'escorte n'ayant été fournie aux topographes que le 7 Juillet, ceux-ci n'ont pas pu commencer leurs travaux avant cette date. En outre le nombre des topographes réellement employés aux levers est de quatre et non pas de cinq, l'un d'entre eux, M. le Capitaine Paulozoff étant constamment resté près de la Commission. Enfin, il est matériellement impossible à un topographe, quelque habile qu'il soit, de lever 10 kilom. carrés par jour, surtout dans une région aussi difficile que l'est celle du Rhodope: de plus, il y a lieu de tenir compte des jours consacrés au repos et des jours de pluie, pendant lesquels il faut interrompre le travail.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie dit que les déclarations antérieurement faites par M. le Colonel Philippoff l'autorisaient à espérer que les levers seraient terminées bien avant la date du 22 Septembre. Il a fait un rapport dans ce sens à son Gouvernement, et se voit maintenant obligé de lui demander de nouvelles instructions.

M. le Colonel Philippoff répond qu'avant la séance de ce jour il n'a jamais fait de déclaration officielle au sujet de l'époque probable de l'achèvement des levers. D'ailleurs, il lui eût été impossible de donner aucune information positive avant d'avoir reçu le Rapport qui vient de lui être adressé par M. le Capitaine Paulozoff au sujet de l'état d'avancement des levers dont il s'agit.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie demande à M. le Colonel Philippoff si, dans le cours des travaux, il est survenu quelque incident de nature à retarder leur achèvement.

M. le Colonel Philippoff déclare qu'à sa connaissance il n'est survenu aucun incident de ce genre.

M. le Président prie, au nom de la Commission, M. le Secrétaire de vouloir bien se charger de faire dresser immédiatement la carte de la partie de frontière comprise entre la Mer Noire et la Tomdja, pour laquelle les levers sont maintenant au complet.

M. le Colonel Philippoff dit qu'il peut mettre pour ce travail à la disposition du Secrétaire, M. le Capitaine Paulozoff.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey déclare qu'il se charge de faire exécuter au Séraskérat les réproductions photo-lithographiques de cette carte en tel nombre d'exemplaires que la Commission jugera convenable.

La Commission prend acte de ces déclarations.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

No. 249.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 16.*)

(No. 71.)

Bujukdéré, September 8, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward Protocol No. 28 of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure in No. 249.

Protocole No. 28.—Séance tenue à Thérapia à l'Hôtel d'Angleterre, le 16 Août, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel de Ripp,
M. le Capitaine Podstawski.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Hamley.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Schmeur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha.
Simon Effendi (Papasian),
Le Commandant Hassan Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure.

Les Protocoles Nos. 26 et 27 sont lus et adoptés.

Le Président rappelle à la Commission qu'à la séance du 2 Août. (Protocole No. 24), devant la contestation de compétence soulevée par le Commissaire de Russie, elle s'était décidée à renvoyer à huitaine la suite du débat relatif à la route militaire par le sud du Sandjak de Sophia concédée à la Turquie par le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès; les délais accordés au Colonel Bogolubow étant expirés, il remet la question en discussion.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow déclare que par son attitude à la séance du 2 Août il s'est d'avance interdit de délibérer sur ledit sujet. Il pourrait en causer avec ses collègues dans des entretiens particuliers, mais il lui serait impossible de signer un Protocole relatant les paroles échangées, en d'autres termes, de laisser s'engager une discussion officielle. Interrogé sur l'époque à laquelle il pourra prendre part à la discussion, il dit que le Gouvernement Russe a ouvert des négociations avec les autres Cabinets, et qu'il ne peut savoir quand elles aboutiront. Malgré la remarque faite par M. le Colonel de Ripp qu'il n'est loisible à aucun Commissaire de se soustraire à une réunion de la Commission, il maintient qu'il ne peut assister à une séance dans laquelle on délibérerait sur une matière qui n'est pas de sa compétence et qui ne lui paraît pas davantage être du ressort de la Commission.

Le Président observe qu'une simple déclaration verbale d'incompétence du Représentant d'une Puissance ne saurait obliger la Commission à suspendre sa procédure.

Les Commissaires de la Grande Bretagne et d'Autriche-Hongrie partagent cette manière de voir.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow objecte que la Commission en votant l'ajournement de la question lui a donné le droit d'en référer à son Gouvernement, et qu'elle a par suite implicitement contracté dans une certaine mesure l'obligation de surseoir à la discussion jusqu'à l'arrivée des instructions qu'il attend.

M. le Major Wedel, tout en croyant personnellement la Commission compétente, consentirait à un nouvel ajournement de la discussion, parce qu'au point de vue pratique mieux vaudrait, selon lui, résoudre la difficulté que la trancher par un vote.

Le Président répond au Colonel Bogolubow que la Commission a fait preuve à son égard d'une grande déférence, en consentant à un délai de huit jours, et en laissant s'écouler quatorze jours entre les deux discussions.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow réplique que la question est assez sérieuse pour que la Commission lui accorde un nouveau sursis. Il affirme de nouveau son incompétence, et déclare si la Commission abordait la question, elle l'aborderait en dehors du Gouvernement Russe. Il ajoute que pour éviter d'avoir une attitude fausse au sein de la Commission, il quitterait dans ce cas la salle des délibérations, et provoquerait ainsi la clôture de la séance de la Commission, puisque celle-ci n'est constituée que par la réunion des sept Commissaires.

Le Président rappelle la décision prise à l'unanimité par la Commission dès sa première séance aux termes de laquelle "le vote de la minorité ne pourra pas entraver la marche des affaires, et laisser en suspens la question agitée," les Gouvernements conservant un droit de révision.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow répond que la Commission a depuis introduit une distinction entre les questions de principe et les questions de détail, les questions de principe devant être votées à l'unanimité.

Le Président donne lecture de la décision insérée p. 4 du Protocole No. 14, à laquelle le Commissaire de Russie lui paraît avoir fait allusion; elle n'infirme en rien la décision insérée au Protocole No. 1.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow réplique qu'il a visé la déclaration faite par lui à la Commission, et insérée p. 3 du Protocole No. 14, et rappelle que ses instructions lui prescrivent de n'accepter dans les questions de principe que des votes d'unanimité.

M. le Colonel de Ripp juge la thèse soutenue par le Commissaire de Russie inadmissible en droit; il serait cependant disposé à voter un nouvel ajournement de la question, si le Colonel Bogolubow en faisait à la Commission la demande expresse, et s'il prenait en même temps l'engagement de participer aux délibérations et au vote de la Commission, aussitôt ses instructions reçues.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow, sans pouvoir officiellement indiquer une date qui dépend évidemment de la marche des négotiations pendantes entre le Gouvernement Russe et les autres Cabinets, estime qu'il recevra dans un délai de huit jours les instructions qu'il a sollicitées. Il prie donc la Commission de remettre l'affaire à huitaine, et promet de donner un vote dès qu'il aura reçu ses instructions, à moins que celle-ci ne lui prescrivent de se retirer de la Commission.

A la suite de cette déclaration, la Commission décide un nouvel ajournement à huitaine. Elle reprend ensuite la discussion relative à la frontière septentrionale de la Bulgarie.

Le Président lui soumet l'Article suivant:—

"Article 2. Le thalweg du Danube est la voie la plus propre à la navigation d'aval durant les plus basses eaux ordinaires. Dans le cas où le fleuve forme deux bras navigables, celui des deux qui dans le cours de l'axe de son thalweg particulier offrira la sonde la moins profonde ne pourra être considéré comme le bras du thalweg du fleuve."

M. le Colonel Bogolubow et *M. le Colonel Orero* proposent de définir différemment le thalweg; le thalweg est pour le premier la ligne continue des plus grands sondages, et pour le seconde la ligne continue de plus grande vitesse de circulation de l'eau. *M. le Général Hamley* juge au contraire inutile de donner une définition du thalweg, et préférerait remettre le réglement de toute la question aux deux parties intéressées.

Le Président combat cet avis en montrant dans quelle erreur grossière étaient tombés les délimitateurs de 1830; il lit le passage suivant du Protocole de la dite Commission de Délimitation, qui lui a été communiqué depuis la dernière séance par son Excellence Tahir Pacha:—

"Ayant mis pied à terre, nous nous sommes empressés de nous réunir en séance, afin de conférer et de régler le mode d'opération à adopter et à suivre pour le partage des îles. A cet effet, nous avons exhibé nos instructions que nous nous sommes communiquées réciproquement, et que nous avons trouvées conformes, tant entre elles, qu'au texte de l'Acte séparé du Traité de Paix, lequel établit en principe: que le thalweg du fleuve doit faire la ligne de démarcation entre les Principautés de Valachie et de Moldavie, et les provinces de la rive droite du Danube, en sorte que toutes les îles attenantes à la rive gauche feront partie intégrante des dites Principautés, de même que toutes les îles attenantes à la rive droite feront partie des provinces situées sur cette même rive. Considérant que le texte du Traité de Paix ne statue rien sur les îles qui pourraient se trouver situées au juste milieu du thalweg, nous avons, d'un commun accord, adopté pour règle constante, que la première île de cette nature, c'est-à-dire, qui sera trouvée au juste milieu du courant, appartiendra au pays de la rive droite, la seconde île qui se trouvera dans le même cas, appartiendra au pays de la rive gauche; la troisième appartiendra à la rive droite; la quatrième à la rive gauche, et ainsi de suite jusqu'à l'embouchure du Pruth."

Le Président voit dans la manière d'opérer des Commissaires délimitateurs de 1830 l'origine de toutes les contestations qui ont surgi depuis entre les deux Etats riverains; ils ne s'étaient pas inquiétés des îles nouvelles qui viendraient à se former au milieu du lit du fleuve.

M. le Colonel Orero déclare que le passage précité du Protocole de 1830 donne à la décision prise par la Commission au sujet du thalweg du Danube des conséquences inattendues pour lui. En se ralliant à la majorité, il avait entendu, conformément à ses instructions, ne modifier aucunement pour la Roumanie le *statu quo ante bellum*. Il se propose donc d'en référer à son Gouvernement et il réserve son vote pour toutes les questions relatives au Danube jusqu'au reçu de nouvelles instructions.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne et d'Italie désireraient qu'il fût dit que "jusqu'à l'entente à intervenir entre les deux Etats, la frontière restât telle qu'elle était entre la Turquie et les Principautés-Unies."

Le Président fait observer que cette disposition étant entièrement conforme au droit international, il lui paraît inutile d'en faire l'objet d'une stipulation spéciale.

Après quelques paroles échangées entre différents Commissaires, on décide de substituer à la première phase du texte en discussion la phrase suivante:

"Le thalweg est la ligne continue des plus grands sondages, qui correspond généralement à la voie la plus propre à la navigation d'aval dans les plus basses eaux ordinaires."

L'Article ainsi amendé est mis aux voix, et adopté par six Commissaires, le Commissaire d'Italie ayant réservé son vote.

Le Président donne ensuite lecture des Articles suivants qu'il soumet à l'appréciation de la Commission:

"Article 3.—Le thalweg du Danube une fois reconnu comme il est dit à l'Article précédent formera la limite de souveraineté, jusqu'à la reconnaissance suivante, quels que soient les changements que le thalweg réel puisse éprouver pendant l'intervalle d'une reconnaissance à l'autre.

"Quant aux droits de propriété, de jouissance et d'usage, de la part des particuliers, des communes ou des Etats, sur les îles et les eaux du fleuve, ils devront faire l'objet d'une Convention spéciale entre les deux Gouvernements riverains, sans préjudice des stipulations de l'Article LV du Traité de Berlin qui remet à la Commission Européenne du Danube, assistée de Délégués des Etats riverains, l'élaboration des règlements de navigation, de police fluviale, et de surveillance depuis les Portes de Fer jusqu'à Galatz.

"Cette Convention déterminera les principes sur lesquels s'appuiera à l'avenir la propriété des alluvions et celle des îles qui pourraient se former dans le lit du fleuve.

"Elle énumérera les travaux dans le lit ou sur les bords du fleuve, qui étant de nature à déterminer un déplacement ultérieur du thalweg, ne pourront être exécutés que du consentement unanime des deux Gouvernements riverains.

"Article 4.—Dans la dite Convention, on prendra pour base le travail de la Commission qui fut chargée de la fixation de la frontière du Danube en exécution du Traité séparé d'Andrinople en date du $\frac{2}{14}$ Septembre, 1829, relatif aux Principautés de Moldavie et de Valachie."

M. le Colonel Orero demande que la discussion soit renvoyée à la prochaine séance et que le texte des Articles soit dans l'intervalle imprimé et distribué.

Cette motion est adoptée et la Commission s'ajourne au 21 Août.

La séance est levée à 4 heures.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) P. PODSTAWSKI.
G. MARMIER.
F. VIGINO-PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

No. 250.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 23. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, September 9, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, translation of a Proclamation addressed to the inhabitants of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar by the Duke of Würtemberg on the occasion of the entry of the Austrian troops into their country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 250.

Proclamation by the Duke of Würtemberg.

(Translation.)

To the Inhabitants of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar.

THE European Governments came to the conclusion last year at the Congress of Berlin that, for the maintenance of peace in Europe and order in the Balkan provinces, it was necessary that the Imperial Royal troops should occupy certain places in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar.

His Majesty Francis Joseph I, Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, and His Majesty Sultan Abdul Hamid Khan, declared that they were ready to carry out this decision.

For the fulfilment of this obligation His Majesty our illustrious Master and Emperor, and your illustrious Emperor and Master, have agreed through their high Plenipotentiaries that the moment has now arrived for the Imperial Royal soldiers to enter the sandjak, and together with the Imperial Ottoman troops to occupy certain positions.

The Imperial Royal troops therefore march into your country as your friends, and I confidently hope that you yourselves will likewise receive them and consider them as such.

The Imperial Royal troops will not interfere in the direction of your affairs; their sole task is to carry out advantageously for your interests the military occupation of certain places. Food for men and horses, and everything of which they may stand in need, will be regularly paid for.

Our Generals and Commanders of troops have orders to see that no burdens are thrown on you, but it is equally incumbent on them to rigorously watch that the troops of His Majesty our Emperor confided to their care be respected in your country as friends of your Emperor, and honoured and welcomed as allies of your Master.

We expect and hope to find in you, inhabitants of the sandjak, the disposition to faithfully and loyally assist in the accomplishment of the great task which our illustrious Sovereigns have undertaken, and which Europe expects of us and you.

(Signed) WILHELM, *Duke of Würtemberg.*

September 1879 (*Ramazan*, 1296).

No. 251.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 24. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, September 9, 1879.*

I HAVE this day telegraphed to your Lordship that the Austrian troops entered yesterday the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar without meeting any opposition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 252.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 584. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 12, 1879.*

AFTER receiving your Lordship's telegram of yesterday's date instructing me to give you the precise language of the Austrian reply to the Russian proposal for the settlement of the difficulty respecting Silistria by a technical Commission, I asked Baron Calice to enable me to comply with your Lordship's wishes.

He read to me the following:—

"We see no reason for considering the Commission of Delimitation as prejudiced in this question, and to take from it the task of examining the site proposed by Russia for the construction of the bridge.

"Though we have no objection to consent to send engineers to the spot, their examination ought, however, to extend to the question whether the cost of a bridge at the point designated would not entail disproportionate expense on Roumania.

"The fundamental condition appears to us to be that the question at issue should not, after the technical reports have been made, become again the subject of negotiation between the Cabinets, but that it should be brought to a definite decision by majority of votes on the basis of the technical report through any 'forum' whatsoever, be it the Commission of Delimitation or the Cabinets.

"We could not adhere to the second part of the Russian proposal, which reserves the definitive decision to an 'entente' of the Cabinets.

"Count Kalnoky has been informed in this sense.

"The above," Baron Calice said, "has been communicated to London."

I told him that what he had just read was not the same as what Count Andrassy had informed Sir Henry Elliot was the substance of his despatch to Russia.

Baron Calice said: "I suppose you mean the note actually presented to the Russian Government," and going into the next room, returned with the following, which he read to me:—

"We desire as much as M. Giers the settlement of the question, and we are ready to display the same good-will as on previous occasions.

"We were ready to submit the decision to the Ambassadors at Constantinople; we consented besides that the Commission of Delimitation should re-examine impartially the site proposed by Russia for the construction of a bridge, and the object we had in view was to facilitate to Russia the definitive settlement of the question.

"When in this spirit we consider the latest proposal of Russia, we find that there are no grounds for taking from the Commission of Delimitation the task of examining the point in question. . . . Nevertheless, we do not refuse to agree to the Russian wish to send engineers.

"The Russian proposal of an understanding between the Cabinets seems calculated to adjourn the settlement (which Russia also desires) of the question, and threatens to keep it in suspense, if not to aggravate it.

"We therefore trust that the Russian Cabinet will entertain some sort of definitive decision by a majority of votes, the more so as, in the present phase of the question, there is not a question of principle, but merely a practical question at issue."

Baron Calice merely read to me these documents, and did not give them to me, or give me copies of them; I, therefore, took pencil notes as he read.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 253.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 585.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 12, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's No. 578, inclosing a despatch to Mr. Adams stating that the French Government do not consider Bulgaria entitled to establish

independent diplomatic relations with other Powers, Baron Calice tells me that the Austrian Government does not entirely take this view.

Roumania and Servia had reciprocal Agents when both were under the suzerainty of the Porte; and the Austrian Government is not inclined, therefore, to hold Bulgaria to the strict letter of the law, the more so as Roumania, for some years before the Treaty of Berlin, had Agents at various Courts of Europe who were perfectly recognized as such; for, though their position was but semi-official, they were included with the diplomatic body.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 254.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 657.) *Therapia, September 16, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Mr. Brophy, dated yesterday:—

"All twenty-two reported in last telegram are killed and wounded. There are only sixty insurgents from Bulgaria, whom Aidos Turks refuse to join. But as Bulgarian peasantry are constantly leaving for Aidos Balkan, their excesses on villagers will drive Turks to insurrection unless immediately and sternly prohibited. Commission with full powers will be best remedy."

No. 255.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16, 12·40 P.M.)

Therapia, September 16, 1879, 12·10 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I SPOKE to Colonel Clarke, and we agree that we could not attempt the bargain suggested advantageously, but more probably the contrary. Russian Commissioner, in exchange for my vote, which must be given next Saturday, could hold out in return only vague hopes, which he could not bind Asiatic Commissioner to fulfil.

But I would suggest your Lordship might offer Count Schouvaloff my abstention from voting for the military route in return for the concession of the point on the watershed for which Clarke contends. Shall I abstain accordingly?

No. 256.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 111. Political.) *Scutari, August 31, 1879.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Prince Nicholas, having been invited by the Emperor of Austria to attend the military manœuvres at Bruck, left yesterday Cettinjé for that purpose. His Highness trusts to be back in Montenegro in about fifteen days.

I believe the Prince will not fail to bring under the Emperor's notice the bad effect produced in Montenegro by the attitude recently assumed by the Austrian Agents with regard to the delimitation of the new boundaries of the Principality.

I propose forwarding a copy of this despatch to Sir Henry Elliot in Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 257.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 112. Political.) *Scutari, September 3, 1879.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed this day by me to Sir Henry Layard, and reporting to his Excellency the deplorable state of the troops in this province who are on the point of being left without food.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 257.

Mr. Kirby Green to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Scutari, September 3, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a request has been confidentially made to me by some of the military authorities here to bring under your Excellency's notice the following facts, and that before doing so I have carefully verified them through the merchant who holds the principal contracts for the supply of the troops, and who is a British protégé.

The military force in this province, which numbers 11,000 men, is about to be left without food, the contractor declining to make any further advances, as the Turkish Government is indebted to him to the amount of 30,000*l*. The supply of rice comes to an end to-morrow, and that of flour a very few days later, whilst meat and other necessaries have long ago ceased to be issued. Both the local and military and civil treasuries are empty, and the commanders will be unable to levy forced contributions, as the crops here have failed. The troops are already discussing the probability of having to leave for their homes and live during the march by pillage.

It is my duty to add that the above picture of the state of affairs is not exaggerated, as the Turkish Government will ascertain if it continues for a few days more to disregard the reiterated representations reaching it from the authorities here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 258.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 83.) *Philippopoli, September 16, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

ALTHOUGH the Commission has adjourned, I beg Mr. Simmons may remain here during adjournment, as I cannot do without him.

The Ambassador wants Consul Calvert to go to his post.

No. 259.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 8.) *Bucharest, September 16, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

M. BOERESCO having returned Sunday night, Parliamentary discussion recommenced to-day on resolution and proposals, from which Government dissents as unsatisfactory and objectionable. After these have been disposed of, Government will probably introduce their own proposals in the Chambers.

No. 260.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Walsham.

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 17, 1879.

ASCERTAIN view of German Government on point raised in Mr. Gould's telegram, repeated to you in my telegram No. 51 of the 15th instant.

No. 261.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 17, 1-15 P.M.)

(No. 70. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September* 17, 1879, 7 A.M.

I GATHER from private conversation with Count Maffei that Italy has come to an understanding with France with regard to Greek question. Italian Government appear to have positive assurance from M. Waddington that France will accept nothing short of line recommended at Berlin, including Janina.

According to Count Maffei, the two Governments hope to induce England to support their identic action in this matter. Italy is waiting for France to send instructions.

It is proposed to urge cession of Janina as a last concession on the part of Turkey, in return for which the Powers would guarantee that Greek demands must be definitely limited to the Berlin Protocol.

I asked Count Maffei if French Government would insist by force should Turkey refuse, and, if so, whether Italian Government would join. He replied in the negative, adding that moral support would be sufficient.

Italian Government consider the present phase of Greek question most serious.

No. 262.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 17, 1879, 3:30 P.M.

IN reference to your telegram of yesterday, there is nothing to be done in London or St. Petersburgh. Count Schouvaloff is absent from London, and there is no one at St. Petersburgh who has authority to negotiate. The only chance is through the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople.

Under the circumstances, the best thing you can do is to do all you can to carry the road.

If you carry it, by however narrow a majority, we shall have something to negotiate with.

Show these telegrams to Malet the moment he arrives.

No. 263.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 17, 1879, 3:40 P.M.

I CONCUR in the views with regard to Danube frontier question expressed in your despatch No. 72 of the 8th instant.

No. 264.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 519.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 17, 1879.

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires communicated, on the 27th ultimo, the substance of instructions he had received, to the effect that, as it had been necessary to abandon the plan of referring the question of the Bulgarian frontier near Silistria to the Servian Boundary Commission, the Russian Government wished to propose to the other Cabinets interested in the matter that a technical Commission, composed of engineers, should, in the first place, be sent to the spot to examine the point on the Danube situated to the east of Silistria, which, in the opinion of the Russian Government, would be most suitable for the construction of a bridge, and which would not interfere with the suburbs of that town. The conclusions arrived at by this technical Commission might serve as a basis for an agreement between the different Cabinets as to the point on the Danube from which the frontier should start, and the further tracing of the line might be left to the Commission of Delimitation charged with this duty.

I have informed M. Bartholomei, in reply, that I do not very clearly understand the meaning of this new proposal of his Government. It appears to imply that the question in dispute is to be taken out of the hands of the International Commission and to be referred to another Commission, called a "technical Commission." In what manner this new Commission would differ from the existing one is not stated. The members of the International Commission, being highly educated Engineer officers, possess all the technical knowledge required for the duties assigned to them by the Treaty, and any other Commission which might be appointed could only differ from them in this respect by being less fully qualified to carry out the work. There appears to me, therefore, to be no advantage to be gained in making a change which has not been provided for by the Treaty, and which would involve the withdrawal of European confidence from a Commission recognized by the Treaty, in order to repose it in a Commission of which the Treaty is entirely ignorant, and the projected composition of which is left undefined.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 265.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 521. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 17, 1879.

THE despatches from Her Majesty's Embassy at St. Petersburgh and from Colonel Clarke, with regard to the settlement of the portion of the Turco-Russian frontier in the neighbourhood of Karaourgan, have been referred to General Sir Lintorn Simmons for his opinion on the questions in dispute.

I transmit to you herewith, for your confidential information, copy of the Report received from that officer. A copy will be forwarded to Colonel Clarke by the messenger leaving for Constantinople to-morrow evening, and Colonel Clarke will be instructed to conform to the recommendations contained in it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 266.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 463. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 17, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh relative to the meeting of the Emperors at Alexandrovka, and I have to draw your especial attention to the statement attributed to the Emperor of Russia with regard to the support accorded to Russia by the Italian Members of the Commissions established under the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 267.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(No. 59.) *Foreign Office, September 17, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 72 of the 8th instant, reporting the present state of the question respecting the portion of the Bulgarian frontier which is marked by the thalweg of the Danube, and the course which you propose to pursue in regard to it.

I have informed you by telegram of my concurrence in your views.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 268.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 964.) *Paris, September 17, 1879.*

My Lord,

I READ to M. Waddington yesterday afternoon your Lordship's telegram No. 152 of 4 P.M. of the previous day, containing a copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Minister at Belgrade, relative to the question raised by the Servian Government as to an anticipated danger of convoking the extraordinary Skuptchina for the purpose of granting emancipation to the Jews.

M. Waddington said that the intelligence conveyed by Mr. Gould was new to him, that Baron des Michels, the French Minister at Belgrade, was in Paris, and that he would examine into the matter and communicate to me the view of the French Government as soon as he was able.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 269.

M. Barthelemei to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

Londres, le 17 Septembre, 1879.

M. le Marquis,

JE viens de recevoir la réponse que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser en date du 15 Septembre.

Pour plus de clarté je vais résumer une fois de plus les indications que j'ai reçues de M. de Giers sur la nouvelle proposition faite par le Gouvernement Impérial en vue de résoudre la question du point frontière à désigner à l'est de Silistrie. Il s'agirait d'envoyer sur place une Commission Spéciale Technique, composée d'Ingénieurs, à laquelle serait confiée la tâche de vérifier sur le Danube le point à l'est de Silistrie qui conviendrait le mieux à l'établissement d'un pont.

Le travail de cette Commission servirait de base à la décision des Cabinets, lesquels statueraient à la majorité des votes. Le Gouvernement Impérial est prêt à adopter ce principe, si le projet était accepté par les Puissances participantes.

Cet assentiment du Gouvernement Impérial au principe de la majorité va au devant du point signalé par votre Excellence; que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ne voudrait accéder à un arrangement, qu'en temps qu'il pourrait amener une solution définitive de cette affaire, ce qui nécessiterait l'application du principe de la majorité des votes.

Je ne suis pas à même d'entrer dans le détail, relevé par vous, à savoir si la décision finale sur le rapport des Ingénieurs devrait être prise par les Ambassadeurs à Constantinople ou autrement. Les informations télégraphiques qui me sont parvenues n'épuisent pas ce sujet; mais le principe de la majorité étant établi, il ne saurait y avoir de différence—si les Cabinets s'en réservaient directement l'application, ou la remettaient, par délégation, à leurs Représentants à Constantinople.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, ayant lieu de croire que toutes les autres Puissances participantes sont disposées à accéder à ce projet d'arrangement, il ne dépendrait plus que de l'assentiment du Gouvernement Britannique pour qu'il soit mis à exécu-

tion. C'est en vue de cette unanimité désirable des Puissances que je viens vous prier de me faire savoir si l'échange d'idées survenu entre nous peut être considéré comme ayant amené la solution de cette question, et si je puis faire part à mon Gouvernement que vous accédez au projet tel qu'il vous a été soumis, c'est-à-dire: Commission Technique d'Ingénieurs, et sur la base de leur travail, décision des Cabinets sur la majorité des votes.

Vu la saison avancée, qui rendrait nécessaire le commencement immédiat des travaux et l'opportunité de mettre aussitôt que possible un terme à une question de frontière restée trop longtemps ouverte entre deux nouveaux États, je crois remplir strictement mon devoir en appelant la bienveillante attention de votre Excellence sur cette affaire, et en demandant aussitôt que possible une réponse que je puisse transmettre par télégraphe à mon Gouvernement et qui, laissez-moi l'espérer, ne saurait être que favorable.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) M. BARTHOLOMEI.

No. 270.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 17, 1879.*

I LEARN from a secret source that a very important meeting of Russian high officials will be held at Livadia in a few days to decide future policy of Russia.

Count Schouvaloff, Prince Orloff, Prince Labanoff, M. de Novikoff, probably M. Oubrilil [? Oubril], and General Kaufmann are said to be coming. General Milintine, Count Adlerberg, and Giers are already there.

No. 271.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. P.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September 17, 1879.*

GREEK Government have sent instructions to their Commissioners at Constantinople to invite their Ottoman colleagues to prepare a line of frontier which could form a basis for discussion, leaving aside question of obligatory character of Article XIII. These instructions to be acted on after the termination of Ramazan.

Prime Minister appears to think that the question of the frontier will have to be decided finally by the Great Powers. Greek Government can discuss, but in face of the country cannot consent to modify line proposed at Berlin.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 272.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 658.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 17, 1879, 9·30 P.M.*

A MAN presented himself this morning at the gate of the Sultan's Palace at Yildiz, and [? on] being refused admittance drew a small dagger and wounded the gatekeeper and a sentry. He was overpowered and disarmed. A Roumanian passport and a letter were found on him. He is supposed to be mad, and no importance is attached to the occurrence.

No. 273.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 18, 1879.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 53.

Owing to the Minister for Foreign Affairs being unwell I have not been able to see his Excellency to-day respecting the proposal of the Servian Government to delay discussion of the question relating to the Jewish emancipation. I have, however, written to him privately to ask what the views of the German Government are. Yesterday I mentioned to his Excellency what Mr. Gould had reported to your Lordship, but as he had not then heard anything from Belgrade on the subject he was unable, he said, to offer an immediate opinion. His private impression was that possibly the Servian Government might [group wrong] be endeavouring to gain time in order to see what took place in Roumania with regard to emancipation.

No. 274.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 659.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 18, 1879, 12·25 P.M.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Major Trotter, dated the 16th:—

"Clayton telegraphs Sheiks tribe to south-east in open revolt. Van Pasha reports 1,500 Kurdish mountain insurgents burnt village north-east of Lake Van. One battalion has been sent against them."

No. 275.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1175.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 18, 1879.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch No. 779 of the 1st instant, reporting your conversations with Safvet Pasha and M. Christich on the question of the return of the Albanian refugees to their homes in the territory ceded to Servia under the Treaty of Berlin, and on the correspondence which has taken place between M. Ristich and Sermed Effendi in regard to this matter.

I am glad that your Excellency should have had an opportunity of allaying the feelings of irritation to which this correspondence might not improbably have given rise.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 276.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1176.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 18, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 775 of the 30th ultimo, relative to the steps which you have taken, in concert with the Representatives of other Powers, to obtain from the Porte the adoption of proper measures for the protection of life and property in the suburbs of Constantinople and in the villages on the shores of the Bosphorus.

The representations which your Excellency has addressed to the Turkish Government upon this subject are approved by Her Majesty's Government. It is to be hoped, for the credit of the Turkish Government, that they may be effectual.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 277.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 73. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 18, 1879.*

THE despatches received from you and from Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh in regard to the question which has arisen as to the portion of the new frontier between Turkey and Russia in the neighbourhood of Karaourgan have been referred to General Sir Lintorn Simmons for his opinion.

I transmit to you herewith a copy of the Report which has been received from Sir L. Simmons upon the subject, and I have to request that you will conduct your future proceedings in conformity with that officer's recommendations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 278.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 57.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 18, 1879.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 205 of the 30th ultimo, relative to the treatment of the Turkish refugees arriving at Philippopoli. I approve the representations which you have made to the Governor-General upon this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 279.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 22. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, September 3, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople with reference to the political expediency of extending the spiritual jurisdiction of the Catholics of Sis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 279.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Aleppo, September 3, 1879.*

THE recent sufferings of the Armenian population of Mount Jaurus having drawn my attention to the essential conditions of their political status, I have the honour to lay before your Excellency the following remarks on one of those conditions:—

The Christians of the Ottoman Empire appear to have substituted for the abstract idea of nationality a feeling of traditional attachment for their respective denominations.

This feeling seems to be the most powerful incentive to political action which can be found for the exercise of an influence, whether salutary or pernicious, over the Christian communities of Turkey. Thus, when Russian diplomacy succeeded in establishing a native clergy in the Bulgarian sees and parishes previously administered by Greek Bishops and priests, a responsive echo vibrated from Varna to Widdin, which became more and more clamorous, until the province was ultimately enfranchised from Turkish rule. In like manner may the Armenians have their destiny precipitated by the fact of the ecclesiastical superior of their Church having his seat at Echmiadzin in Russia, and being a Russian subject.

The conquest of Erivan in [illegible] had the effect of placing the Armenians of Turkey under an influence emanating from St. Petersburgh through the transfer

of their Catholicos or spiritual Head of their Church from his allegiance to the Sultan to that which he now owes to the Czar.

This result might easily be counteracted by the Porte, and all political contingencies arising from it averted by a declaration of the ecclesiastical independence of the Catholicos of Sis in Cilicia.

In the middle ages Lesser Armenia was a separate Kingdom, whose capital, Sis, was the seat of its spiritual as well as of its temporal Government. When that Kingdom was annexed to Turkey in , the Abbot of the Monastery of Echmiadzin, in Armenia Proper, was appointed Catholicos of the whole Armenian Church, in order that the capital of the fallen Kingdom might not retain its metropolitan character.

Until the year 1441 the Catholicos of Sis was thus the Supreme Head of the Armenian Church, and the ostensible pretext alleged by the Porte for the abrogation of his supremacy was not such as to command any sympathy or popular concurrence in an age so little addicted to superstition as the present, for the ostensible plea put forward was the possession by the Monastery of Echmiadzin of one of St. Gregory's hands and of the remains of St. Christina, a nun of the Imperial family of Claudius Cæsar, who became a martyr in the persecution of Diocletian. The Armenian Patriarchs of Jerusalem and Constantinople—the former named in 1311 by the Sultan of Egypt and Syria and the latter in 1454 by the Sultan of Turkey—have no authority to consecrate Bishops or holy oil as the Catholicos of Sis and the Catholicos of Echmiadzin have.

They cannot, therefore, be affected by a change of spiritual supremacy, which must be vested in one or the other. In the hands of which of them it would prove most advantageous to Turkey appears to me a self-evident proposition.

It cannot be apprehended that Sis might become a focus of political agitation, as nothing remains of the town but the Monastery, while the locality offers no field for agricultural, commercial, or industrial enterprize to attract a population. There exists no reason why the Catholicos in Turkey should not resume his independence from the Catholicos in Russia, and many cogent reasons are obvious why this change could be made with advantage to the future tranquillity and integrity of the Ottoman Empire. The Armenians themselves are not likely to object to it, for the unsatisfactory state of their own Church has already given rise to a strong tendency on their part to leave their ancient communion and join the Papal and the Protestant Churches.

The tenets of the Armenian Church were declared to be heretical by the Council of Chalcedon in the year 491, in consequence of a refusal to put water in the wine and leaven in the bread of the Eucharist, but the charge of monophysitism brought forward was founded only on the reception of the amended Trisagion of the monophysite Peter the Fuller of Antioch. It is called the Eutychian Armenian Church and also the Gregorian Armenian Church from St. Gregory, surnamed the Lusavórich or Illuminator, who was consecrated Bishop of Armenia by Leontius of Cæsarea; but there exists little in the doctrine of either founder to militate against the beneficial results, in so far as religion or education are concerned, which would probably accrue from the re-establishment of the supremacy in Turkey of the Catholicos of Sis.

The institution of a free hierarchy, uncontrolled by a Government systematically opposed to the education of the people, such as that of Russia, must, one would think, advance the development of public instruction, which has become in so remarkable a degree the watchword of the Protestant Armenians in this part of Asia Minor.

By the progressive operation of such a change alone can the reproach of ignorance on the part of the clergy be removed, and when that great aim has been attained the keen intelligence of the Armenians must certainly suffice to secure its full enlightenment with an accompanying efficiency as a support of the Ottoman power. The principles inculcated by the Armenian priests would soon be modified by the diffusion of knowledge, and, in a religious as well as in a social and political sense, there would be realized an incalculable advantage to this important branch of the Sultan's Christian subjects.

The question as to whether the Porte could be brought to see the advantage to itself in carrying out such a policy is one which I must leave to your Excellency, but, granting that it did so, the question would also have to be considered whether the present Catholicos of Sis would be a suitable instrument for bringing to a successful issue the policy I have ventured to recommend.

His Beatitude is, undoubtedly, a man of great intelligence and ability, and, as far as capacity goes, no one could be better qualified for such a task, but I regret to say that the questionable commercial transactions in which he engages does not add to the respect and dignity of the high office he holds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 280.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, September 19.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 4 Septembre*, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à votre Excellence trois Rapports de nos Commissaires à Philippopoli relatifs aux agissements de la Société Gymnastique formée dans la Roumélie Orientale, aux armes et aux cartouches offertes en don par la Russie à cette province, et à la mission dont le Capitaine Mirkovitch a été chargé par Vitâlis Pacha. Votre Excellence trouvera également ci-joint en copie un Rapport de notre Ministre à Bucharest contenant: (1) le texte d'une Proclamation du nouveau Ministère Bulgare; (2) un Rapport de notre Consul à Giurgévo concernant les souffrances endurées par la population Musulmane de la Bulgarie; et (3) une requête des habitants Musulmans de Koutché se plaignant des mauvais traitements dont ils sont l'objet de la part des Bulgares.

Je n'ai pas besoin de signaler à la sérieuse attention de votre Excellence les faits mentionnés dans ces diverses communications ainsi que la teneur de la Proclamation du Ministère Bulgare.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 280.

Rapport envoyé par les Commissaires de la Sublime Porte dans la Roumélie Orientale au Ministère Impérial des Affaires Etrangères, et daté du 28 Redjeb, 1296 (5 *Juillet*, 1879).

(Traduction.)

Excellence,

NOUS avions eu l'honneur de vous soumettre par nos deux Rapports spéciaux, et respectivement datés du 14 et du 24 Sefer, 1296, que l'annexion du Vilâyet de la Roumélie Orientale à la Bulgarie ne pouvant s'opérer que par un soulèvement ou une révolution, on avait dans ce but distribué dans chaque village deux ou trois fusils d'un nouveau système par maison, et que les exercices militaires se poursuivaient activement.

Depuis l'arrivée du Général Obroutchef, ces exercices, qui se faisaient par les soins des Sociétés Gymnastiques, avaient été complétement abandonnés dans certains endroits et s'étaient relâchés dans d'autres, tandis que depuis une semaine on les a recommencés à Philippopoli et sur toute l'étendue du territoire; et l'on se répète parmi les membres de la Société Gymnastique que le but secret de ces préparatifs et de ces exercices n'est que d'annexer la Bulgarie à la Roumélie Orientale sous le pouvoir d'Aleko Pacha. Le bruit court même que pour atteindre ce but des sommes considérables sont parvenues à ce dernier de la source que l'on peut facilement deviner.

Bien que nous n'ayons pas de preuve pour ou contre ces assertions, cependant la conduite et les mesures du Vali depuis le commencement de son administration, jointes à sa sympathie, bien connue, pour les Bulgares, tendent à suggérer ce soupçon.

Bien plus, l'Administration voit d'un œil indifférent et tolère ces exercices militaires qui sont strictement prohibés par les règlements de la Roumélie Orientale; elle permet aux Sociétés Gymnastiques (qui avaient été créées et encouragées par les Russes dans leur intention bien connue) de reprendre leur action. Enfin, ainsi que nous l'avions constaté dans un de nos derniers Rapports, une grande quantité de cartouches a été distribuée sans aucune opposition de qui que ce soit.

Toutes ces raisons nous semblent suffisantes pour croire que l'on devrait prendre en considération les menées des Présidents de ces Sociétés.

Nous avons, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 280.

Rapport envoyé par les Commissaires de la Sublime Porte dans la Roumélie Orientale au Ministère Impérial des Affaires Etrangères, en date du 28 Redjeb, 1296 (5 Juillet, 1879).

(Traduction.)
Excellence,

LE Commandant de la Milice, Vitalis Pacha, avait envoyé le Capitaine Medkovich à Pirgos, pour prendre possession des fusils et des cartouches qui s'y trouvaient; à son retour ici, le dit officier fit le rapport suivant :—

Qu'on avait envoyé d'Odessa à Pirgos 16,700 caisses contenant chacune 870 cartouches, formant un total de 14,503,380. On avait fait courir le bruit ici que cette expédition avait été promise à la milice par le Général Stolipine. A l'arrivée du dit Capitaine à Pirgos, il n'y trouva ni fusils ni cartouches, et sur l'assurance qu'on lui donna qu'ils avaient été acheminés sur Islimia, ils s'y rendit sans perte de temps pour en prendre possession. Il s'adressa à cet effet au Président de la Société Gymnastique qui lui répondit que par ordre supérieur les dits fusils et cartouches avaient été distribués aux membres des Sociétés Gymnastiques.

L'affaire étant importante, nous avons cru de notre devoir de la soumettre à votre Excellence.

Inclosure 3 in No. 280.

Rapport envoyé par les Commissaires de la Sublime Porte dans la Roumélie Orientale au Ministère Impérial des Affaires Etrangères, en date du 5 Chaban, 1296 (12 Juillet, 1879).

(Traduction.)
Excellence,

PAR notre rapport du 28 Redjeb, 1296, nous avions eu l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que les fusils et la grande quantité de munitions qui avaient été envoyés d'Odessa à Akh Yollou et qui étaient destinés à la milice, avaient été distribués par les Russes aux membres des Sociétés Gymnastiques, et nous avons l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint le Rapport que le Capitaine Medkovich, qui avait été envoyé pour en prendre possession, avait adressé à Vitalis Pacha à cet effet.

Inclosure 4 in No. 280.

Philippopoli, le 5/17 Juillet, 1879.

Mon Général,

CONFORMÉMENT aux ordres que votre Excellence m'a donnés, je suis parti pour Bourgas afin de chercher les cartouches et les fusils dont le Général Stolipine, au nom de son Gouvernement, avait fait don à la Roumélie Orientale.

Le Général Stolipine, auprès duquel j'ai été admis, m'a renvoyé près du Capitaine Sitroff, Directeur de l'Arsenal. Ce dernier me dit qu'il avait expédié sur Slivno tous les colis renfermant ces fusils et ces cartouches (au nombre de 16,777 colis renfermant 870 cartouches, soit 14,503,380 cartouches). Je partis immédiatement pour Slivno, et là j'appris que les cartouches et fusils avaient été distribués au Comité des Sociétés Gymnastiques. Je me présentai à la Direction de ces Comités, et on me dit que c'était à eux et non à la milice que le don avait été fait, mais que cependant si le Général Vitalis avait besoin de cartouches pour les donner aux gens des frontières, on se ferait un plaisir de lui en donner. Tels sont, mon Général, les faits qui se sont passés et que je crois de mon devoir de vous relater.

(Signé) MARKOVITCH.

Inclosure 5 in No. 280.

Lettre adressée en date du 16 Chaban, 1296, par le Moktar, Chef du Village de Yedikli, dans le District de Roustchouk, au Consulat de Yergavy.

IL y à six jours, le sergent de la police du district de Rahova, accompagné du fils de Hadji Petro Prachko, avec 100 villageois Bulgares, sont venus ici, ont rassemblé

tous les habitants de notre village, sans en expliquer le motif, et ont commencé à nous frapper un à un. Sur ce, nous lui demandâmes la raison de cette conduite inique; ils nous répondirent d'une manière insultante que nous avions dévalisé les meuniers du village Kade. Afin de nous faire dénoncer ceux de nous qui avaient commis cet acte de vol, ils redoublèrent les coups. Cara Mustafa Oglou Mehemet, Cotan Osman Oglou Mehemet, Rusteu Oglou Fedzoullah, Murad (Beitoullah ?), Edris, Tahir, Mousa Oglou Mehemet, et Tchaker Oglou Ibrahim, tous les susnommés ont été battus avec tant de violence que pour éviter ce traitement ils avouèrent qu'ils étaient coupables, bien que ces individus n'aient jamais eu de pareils précédents.

Cette bastonnade administrée indistinctement à nous tous étant un acte d'injustice, nous avons porté nos plaintes contre le dit sergent ainsi que contre Prachko.

Après la conquête du district de Roustchouk par les Russes, ils désarmèrent complétement toute la population, ils laissèrent seulement des armes qui ne pouvaient servir à aucun usage, cependant les susdits ont de nouveau voulu nous prendre les armes qui nous avaient été laissées, et sous prétexte que nous avions des armes cachées dans nos maisons, ils y entrèrent et nous enlevèrent tous les objets de valeur qui tombèrent entre leurs mains.

Nous vous prions par conséquent de bien vouloir nous protéger contre de pareilles avanies et de nous faire restituer les objets qu'on nous a enlevés, et nous avons l'honneur de vous informer qu'en date du 14 Chaban nous avons porté ces faits à la connaissance du Gouverneur Russe.

Inclosure 6 in No. 280.

Rapport du Consul de Turquie à Giurgévo, en date du 4 Août, 1879.

Excellence,

EN donnant suite à mes Rapports précédents, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer qu'on est en Bulgarie presque en état de siége, mais seulement pour la population Turque. Tous les Bulgares sans distinction ont eu l'autorisation de porter des armes et faire le service de police et de gendarmerie.

Je crois superflu, Excellence, d'attirer votre attention sur les abus qui se commettent naturellement dans un état de choses peu rassurant pour les paisibles et sans aucune protection Musulmans, contre lesquels ont sévit journellement à tort et à travers avec une animosité révoltante, et ceci, d'après ce que les Bulgares disent ouvertement, pour obliger les Turcs de quitter la Principauté.

Comme ses mesures peu humaines rendent leur vie dure et insupportable, ils préfèrent naturellement, ceux qui ont les frais de voyage, de quitter le pays et abandonner toutes leurs propriétés consistant en meubles et immeubles. Heureux ceux qui peuvent encore les vendre à des vilains prix. D'après ce que j'ai entendu dans mon séjour de quelques heures hier à Roustchouk, on trouve à y acheter aujourd'hui de bonnes maisons avec terrains spacieux et jardins au prix de 1,000 fr. à 2,000 fr.

Un village de Kioutonslou, dans l'arrondissement de Roustchouk, habité presque de plus de 300 familles Musulmanes, on m'a informé qu'avant deux ou trois jours ont eu lieu des scènes sanglantes de la part des Bulgares contre les Musulmans, et toutes leurs maisons furent dévalisées et même quelques individus ont succombé à leurs blessures.

Au village d'Ismil, dans l'arrondissement de Tolrakan, habité aussi par 400 et plus de familles Musulmanes, les mêmes scènes et plus affreuses sont passées tout dernièrement.

Alissaga, un Notable de Roustchouk, en revenant de sa vigne, a été affreusement maltraité par les Bulgares et se trouve au lit à cause de ses blessures, ainsi que les nommés Hadji Moustapha et Osman Pépémilé, de Kadikeuy, subirent la même fortune tout près de Roustchouk, et le fils de Toptzou, Youzbashi Moustapha de Roustchouk, un jeune homme de 25 ans, fut étranglé par les Bulgares, et son cadavre fut jeté dans le Danube; quoique les autorités connaissent les auteurs de cet assassinat, parce que sous prétexte qu'ils voulaient acheter sa vigne on l'a fait sortir hors de la ville, on n'a pas procédé à leur arrestation.

Rien donc d'étonnant, Excellence, si les esprits s'échauffant et s'exaltant par des épreuves si dures et si cruelles, nous aurons sous peu des scènes sanglantes dans des endroits où la population est en majorité, tel que dans le Sandjak de Varna et de Constchouk, dans lequel une grande portion du Dédi-Orman est composée.

L'évacuation du territoire de la Bulgarie occupé par l'armée Russe sera terminée dans une dizaine de jours tout au plus, sauf une partie de l'Intendance, qui restera pour quelques mois encore, afin de régler et liquider les comptes et vendre les nombreux matériels, etc.

La démolition des ports et forteresses s'effectue, comme on m'a bien informé, d'une manière incomplète. On fait pour le moment quelque chose en détruisant quelques ouvrages en terre de peu d'importance et qu'on peut très-facilement et très-vite même rétablir en cas de besoin.

No. 281.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, September 19.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 11 Septembre*, 1879.

POUR faire suite à ma dépêche télégraphique du 5 Août, je m'empresse de transmettre, ci-joint à votre Excellence, pour son information, copie de la note que notre Ministre à Belgrade a adressée au Gouvernement de Serbie demandant le rappel des Albanais dans leurs foyers, le respect de leurs droits, et le libre exercice de leur religion.

La demande de Sermed Effendi étant parfaitement conforme à l'esprit du Traité de Berlin, nous espérons que les Puissances Signataires de cet acte voudront bien insister auprès du Gouvernement Princier à l'effet d'obtenir une pleine et entière satisfaction à notre demande.

Je vous prie, par conséquent, de faire des démarches dans ce sens auprès du Cabinet de St. James.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 281.

Sermed Pasha to M. Ristitch.

M. le Ministre, *Belgrade, le $\frac{4}{16}$ Août*, 1879.

J'AI eu déjà l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence l'opinion de mon Gouvernement sur la question des Albanais, et tout en constatant avec plaisir le désir du Gouvernement Princier d'arriver à une solution pacifique et équitable de cette question, je ne puis m'empêcher d'exprimer à votre Excellence toute mon inquiétude sur l'état d'agitation continuelle dans lequel se trouvent ces populations Albanaises, qui, s'étant vu obligées de se disperser de lieux en lieux et d'abandonner leurs foyers, cherchent maintenant par tous les moyens possibles, par la force même, à rentrer dans la possession de leurs biens.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, justement ému par la situation créée aux Albanais et voulant prévenir un développement plus considérable de l'effervescence que les mesures prises par le Gouvernement de son Altesse ne manquèrent pas de causer, renforça au prix des plus grands sacrifices ses troupes sur les frontières et donna des ordres sévères à ses commandants militaires pour empêcher et réprimer tout désordre.

Indépendamment, et mues par des sentiments de justice, les Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin se crurent justifiées d'intervenir et de faire en vertu même de l'esprit du Traité des représentations auprès du Gouvernement Princier en faveur de ses populations Albanaises qui, sans abri ni asile, sont prêtes encore à faire usage de tous les moyens pour tâcher de reprendre possession de leurs propres foyers.

Le Gouvernement Impérial est fermement convaincu que la continuation de cet état de choses, le refus de la part du Gouvernement Princier de s'élever à la vraie hauteur que la question comporte, et par l'adoption, d'une mesure libérale et généreuse de mettre un terme à de continuelles inquiétudes, sont des faits qui se trouvent en contradiction non-seulement avec l'esprit véritable du Traité de Berlin, dont l'intention suprême est la pacification complète de l'Orient, mais aussi avec les intérêts intimes du Gouvernement de son Altesse et la tranquillité future de ses Etats.

C'est donc en considération de ce triple point de vue, à savoir: la vraie et manifeste intention du Traité de Berlin, le droit imprescriptible que ces populations ont de rentrer dans la possession de leurs biens, et enfin l'intérêt même du Gouvernement Princier, que j'ai l'honneur de faire au nom du Gouvernement Impérial par la présente note une démarche officielle auprès du Gouvernement de son Altesse pour demander le rappel des Albanais dans leurs foyers, le respect de leurs droits, et le libre exercice de leur religion.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) SERMED.

No. 282.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 376. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, September 11*, 1879.

I GATHER from a conversation I have had with Count Maffei that the President of the Council informed M. Boerescu that however well disposed Italy may be towards Roumania, she cannot at present entertain any proposal short of the principles laid down at Berlin. His Excellency added that the Italian Government are well aware of the difficulties which an immediate and complete emancipation of the Jews necessarily offers, but that certain provisions might nevertheless be made in the Constitution in accordance with the language of the Treaty, by which the change might be gradually effected, and which would offer an acceptable compromise to the Signatory Powers.

It is evident, however, that both the President of the Council and Count Maffei would readily, if they could, give way upon the point of immediate and complete emancipation, and willingly accept any plausible declaration of principle which would enable them to open relations with Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 283.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 378. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, September 11*, 1879.

PENDING the recognition of Roumania by Italy, Count Tornielli has been instructed to proceed to Servia as Envoy Extraordinary. The object of his Mission, I am assured by Count Maffei, is to establish relations with those Principalities, and to open negotiations for Commercial Treaties.

Count Maffei admitted that the choice of Count Tornielli for the appointment in question may have given just cause for remark; but, he added, as Count Tornielli himself applied for it, the President of the Council gladly availed himself of the opportunity of removing him from Rome to the East, where his restlessness of mind ("son esprit remuant") will enable him to render greater services to his country.

Count Tornielli's marked distrust of Austria, and his constant desire to bring Italy into a more prominent position as regards the Eastern question, would, I venture to suggest, make it desirable that his presence in the Principalities be not allowed to pass unobserved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 284.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 661.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 18, 1879, noon.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador has gone to Livadia.

No. 285.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 152.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 18, 1879, 8 P.M.

CAUSES of bloodshed at Nevesine were Herzegovina frontier guards, who had deserted to Montenegro, as reported by Consul at Bosna-Seraï last month, and who have returned from thence, seizing blockhouses and attacking Austrian troops. Reinforcements have been sent from Mostar.

No. 286.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, September* 19, 1879.

THIS Government intends laying before the Legislature, as soon as hostile project is disposed of, a Bill for solving the Jewish question according to proposals submitted to the Powers; but the nominal list of those acquiring citizenship at once, which will be a part of it, is to be classified in accordance with five categories drawn up at Berlin.

This, if passed, will hardly come up to what was desirable, but it is not likely that more can be obtained at present.

No. 287.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1879, 4·45 P.M.

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires has made following proposal for settlement of Arab-Tabia difficulty:—

"Special Technical Commission of Engineers to verify on the spot point east of Silistria best suited for a bridge.

"Work of Commission to serve as base for decision of Cabinets, who would decide by majority of votes."

Chargé d'Affaires not able to state whether final decision would be taken by Ambassadors at Constantinople; but observes that, principle of majority being established, it is immaterial whether Cabinets delegate their votes to Ambassadors or give them direct.

Ascertain and telegraph whether Austrian Government accept this proposal.

No. 288.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 601.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1879.

THE note from the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, of which a copy is inclosed, contains the latest proposal of the Russian Government for the settlement of the Arab-Tabia difficulty. It suggests that the work of the Special Commission of Engineers, to be sent to examine the site for a bridge east of Silistria, should serve as a basis for the decision of the Cabinets, to be taken by majority of votes; and leaves open the question whether the Cabinets should vote directly or through their Ambassadors at Constantinople.

I have requested you, by telegraph, to inform me whether the Austro-Hungarian Government is prepared to accept this proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 289.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 522.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1879.

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires communicated to me on the 10th instant the substance of a further telegram which he had received from M. de Giers, in regard to the proposal of the Russian Government to refer the question of the frontier of Bulgaria near Silistria to a Technical Commission.

In this telegram M. de Giers stated that the Russian Government had reason to believe that all the other Powers, with the exception of Great Britain, were ready to accept their proposal, and that they therefore trusted that Her Majesty's Government would not refuse their concurrence. The Cabinet of St. Petersburg, on their part, were ready to adopt the principle that the question should be settled by the decision of the majority of the Cabinets.

I informed M. Bartholomei, in reply, on the 15th instant, that Her Majesty's Government were anxious to contribute, as far as lay in their power, to an early settlement of the question. I had been unable, I said, to give a definite answer to the proposal which he had laid before me on the 27th ultimo, because I had not fully comprehended its purport, and I was not sure even now that I clearly understood the proposition contained in M. de Giers' subsequent telegram, to which it appeared that the Russian Government had obtained the consent of the other Cabinets. If, however, the Cabinet of St. Petersburg wished that a Commission of civil engineers should examine the localities to the east of Silistria suitable for the construction of a railway bridge over the Danube, and should report upon the fitness of each spot for that purpose, giving all the details requisite for forming a judgment upon the question, and if the other Cabinets were disposed to accede to that idea, Her Majesty's Government would not refuse their assent, although they saw no reason for distrusting the opinion which the military engineers had already formed upon the matter. They could only, however, concur in the proceeding if they were satisfied that it was one from which a definitive settlement could be expected; and their assent must therefore be conditional on the acceptance by the other Cabinets of the provision that when the report of the Civil Engineers had been made the ultimate decision should be taken by a majority of votes either of the International Frontier Commission or of the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 290.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 967. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, September* 19, 1879.

I READ to M. Waddington yesterday afternoon confidentially the telegram of the 12th instant from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli, which was repeated to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 155 of the 16th instant.

M. Waddington said that the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires had spoken to him about the state of things in Eastern Roumelia, and his Excellency had requested him to furnish a statement of the facts.

With regard to the suggestion that an English and a French iron-clad should be sent to cruize off Bourgas, M. Waddington observed that he doubted the expediency of such a step, as it would be manifestly looked upon as hostile to Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 291.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 20, 1879.*

I HAVE been told, confidentially, that the Roumanian Minister of Finance will arrive here to-morrow night, to consult about arrangement he concluded, when at Berlin a short time ago, with regard to purchase of the railways from German Company.

It appears that difficulties have arisen at Bucharest as to manner of giving effect to this arrangement.

The Minister will doubtless also discuss the question relating to Jewish emancipation, and your Lordship will remember that his proposals were considered far more satisfactory than those lately made by the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 292.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 142.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 20, 1879.*

GIERS writes to Jomini to-day that he can do nothing about point near Karaburgan till he has seen Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, who was expected shortly at Livadia.

With regard to delays in completing map of southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia, Giers throws all the responsibility on the delays caused by the Turks.

No. 293.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 20, 1879.*

AUSTRIAN Government accepts Russian answer to their last note as admits [? admitting] definitive decision by majority.

Baron Calice says that the labours of both Commissions must be taken into consideration by the Cabinets or Ambassadors.

Russian answer, dated 15th, to Austrian note has, I understand, been communicated to your Lordship by Austrian Embassy.

No. 294.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 21, 11 A.M.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, September 20, 1879.*

VOTE on military route still incomplete, but will probably be settled on Monday. I still have hopes of a majority.

All remaining delimitation documents are signed by all except the Turk, who, under instructions, awaits settlement, no matter what, of military route question; he will then sign.

No. 295.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 25. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Seraï, September 10, 1879.*

ALTHOUGH the organization of the Tribunals in these provinces is not yet fully accomplished, owing chiefly to the difficulty of finding persons to fill the various posts, and a complete Report on the administration of justice is not, therefore, possible for the

moment, a slight sketch of the system which now obtains may be of some interest to your Lordship.

There is a department of the Government in Bosnia specially charged with the administration of justice ("Landes-Regierung-Justiz Abtheilung"). The Chief of the Department is a Military Judge ("Auditor"), with the rank of Government Councillor ("Regierungs-Rath"), and he is assisted by a Secretary ("Regierungs-Sekretär") and a staff of subordinate employés.

At Serajevo, the capital of the province, there is a Court of Appeal ("Obergericht"), from which there is no further appeal to any higher Tribunal. The members of this Court consist of a President and four Councillors ("Räthe"), an Assistant Councillor ("Adjunkt"), a Secretary, and other minor officials, all Austrian. A certain number of native Assessors will also sit in this Court, but they have not yet been appointed. One of the Austrian members, with two native Mussulmans, form a Court of Appeal for all cases judged by the Cadi in the Mekkemé, according to the Sheriat.

According to the Turkish system, appeal could be made to the Sheik-ul-Islam against the decisions of the Mekkemé; that is to say, an individual could very often succeed in obtaining several judgments from different Tribunals and Cadis on the same case, which he would then submit to the Sheik-ul-Islam, and obtain from him a "Fetva" in favour of one or other of them. Now, appeal to the Obergericht is final.

At the capital of each sandjak, namely, Serajevo, Travnik, Banjaluka, Bihac, Tuzla, and Mostar, is a Court of First Instance ("Kreisgericht"), consisting of a President and three Councillors, an Assistant Councillor, &c. (all Austrians), and four native Assessors. At Serajevo, two of these Assessors are Mahommedans, one an Orthodox Christian, and one a Catholic. The three former are appointed for two years; the Catholic, as representing only a small minority of the population, will be replaced during the second year by a Jew. The Presidents of these Courts at Serajevo, Travnik, and Banjaluka are actually Military Judges ("Auditors"); in the other three sandjaks, they are Civil Judges. In each sandjak there is also a Mekkemé, or Civil Tribunal, for Mussulmans, where the Cadi alone sits and decides all matters regarding marriages, divorces, heritages, &c., according to the Sheriat, and in conformity with the Fetvas of the Mufti, who is still in the performance of his functions.

In every caza, or district, there is also a Court of First Instance ("Bezirksgericht"), which should be presided over by an Austrian Judge; but as yet there are Austrian Judges in only two cazas—Fojnica and Bjelina, while in all the others the Tribunals are still presided over by a Mussulman Cadi. The fact is, from economical motives, it was decided to unite in the cazas the Administrative and Judicial Departments; and as, by this arrangement, the Judges are subordinate to the Kaïmakams, who are still in many places natives, no Austrian officials have offered themselves for such posts. I should here state that all Austrian civil employés at present serving in Bosnia and the Herzegovina are volunteers who have obtained two years' leave of absence from their respective departments in Austria, and bound themselves for that length of service in these provinces. At the expiration of the two years they will be at liberty to return to their former posts. This dependency of the Austrian Government on officials who volunteer for the service, and its consequent inability to select those specially suitable to the circumstances, is one of the great drawbacks to a speedy and efficient organization of the Administration. It gives a provisional character to all arrangements; and as any extra rank obtained while serving here is not permanent, there is an absence of incentive to stimulate the zeal and the energy of the employés.

No special Tribunals of Commerce have yet been constituted, and all commercial suits are brought before the ordinary Courts of First Instance ("Kreisgerichte" and "Bezirksgerichte"); but I am told that a Superior Tribunal of Commerce will shortly be organized in this town, and that even the six native Assessors have been already designated.

All crimes against the Government are still judged by court-martial.

Hitherto, the Turkish Code of Laws has been used in all the Courts of Justice; but since the 1st instant it has been replaced by a new Penal Code drawn up especially for these provinces. This Penal Code ("Strafgesetz"), of which I annex a copy,[a] has been based on the Austrian Military Code. The reason of this is, that Austria and Hungary have different Civil Codes; and to avoid, therefore, giving the preference to either of these, the Military Code was taken, which is the same for the whole of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The Austrian Consular Officers in these provinces continue to exercise their judicial functions as heretofore. All cases where both parties are Austrian subjects

[a] Sent separately.

come before the Consular Courts. In mixed suits, if the defendant is an Austrian, he may select either the Kreisgericht or the Consular Court; the former, however, can only give the sentence, but cannot put it in execution against an Austrian subject; and Consular Officers are not obliged to execute sentences pronounced by the local Tribunals when they have not assisted at the trial. This is sometimes the cause of much confusion and even ill-feeling.

It seems an anomaly that, in a country administered by Austria, Austrian Consular jurisdiction should still exist; but it would probably be difficult to do away with it as long as foreign Consular jurisdiction is admitted. Another reason, perhaps, for its continued existence, is that, in the present imperfect state of organization of the other Tribunals, it is found to be a great relief to the judicial work of the country.

The above is, I am aware, but an imperfect sketch of the administration of law and justice in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, but I reserve to myself the faculty to make a fuller Report on the subject at a more favourable opportunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDW. B. FREEMAN.

No. 296.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 592.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 16, 1879.*

THE programme of occupation in the Novi-Bazar Sandjak has been concluded by the peaceable entry of the Austrian troops into Priepolje, the point ultimately selected by the Staff, instead of the more advanced one of Bielopolje originally named in the Convention.

The Duke of Würtemberg, after settling with Husni Pasha as to the quarters of their respective troops, quitted Priepolje yesterday on his return march.

The Austrian forces left in the sandjak now consist of a battalion at Priepolje, another at Prilog, and another, with a few guns, at Plewlje, the most important strategic point of the three. To improve the roads, two other battalions will be left in the sandjak during the autumn.

Turkish garrisons still remain at Priepolje and Plewlje, points which command both roads to Mitrovitza.

The strategic value of the positions taken by the Austrians is rated here very highly. I venture to inclose herewith a newly published map of the sandjak and adjoining countries, which has been reduced from the Austrian Staff Map.

From want of anything else to talk about the Viennese papers are much occupied with a toast which the Duke of Würtemberg is reported to have made at Priepolje, viz., "The Austro-Turkish Alliance."

This language, which is not confirmed in the official accounts, would not have been so much caught up by the Press had it not been that vague reports have been generally current here of late of an understanding having been come to between the Austrian Government and the Porte on matters of wider interest than the occupation of the sandjak.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 297.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 595.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 16, 1879.*

I COMMUNICATED to Baron Calice, as instructed by your Lordship's despatch No. 593, M. Bartholomei's letter and your Lordship's answer to the proposal of the Russian Government conveyed in it, for the submission to the Cabinets of a provisional tracing of the Montenegrin and Turkish frontiers.

With your Lordship's answer Baron Calice entirely concurred,—"we should have answered in the same way ourselves had the proposal been made to us, but it was made to London and Berlin before we had any knowledge of it."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 298.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 456.)
My Lord, *Berlin, September 18, 1879.*

I YESTERDAY had an opportunity of mentioning to the Minister for Foreign Affairs what Mr. Gould had reported to your Lordship about the desire of the Servian Government to postpone for the moment any further action in the matter concerning the emancipation of the Jews in the Principality, and I asked his Excellency whether the proposal had been brought to the notice of the German Government by their Representative at Belgrade, as I was anxious to be able to let Her Majesty's Government know the view taken of it here.

M. de Radowitz said that as yet he had not received any information on the subject from Belgrade, and he could not therefore, at present, tell me how the Servian proposal would be regarded by the German Government.

His Excellency seemed to think that possibly the Servian Government might be waiting to see what would be done in Roumania with regard to the emancipation question before they themselves undertook to adopt any decided measure in the Principality.

This was merely his private impression.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 299.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 460. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, September 20, 1879.*

WITH reference to your despatch to Mr. White No. 97 of the 27th ultimo, a copy of which was inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 472 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to state that, as far as I have been able to learn from M. de Radowitz, the German Government do not intend to take any further steps with regard to the Roumanian question until the Roumanian Government shall have made fresh proposals, or at all events have decided whether or not they will abide by those lately submitted to the Powers by M. Boerescо.

A few days ago M. Bleichröder, who, your Lordship is aware, is consulted by the German Government in the matter of the Jewish emancipation, returned to Berlin, after an absence of some weeks. He has told me confidentially that, when he was at Homburg, M. Boerescо went there expressly to see him before proceeding to Paris, and endeavoured, though unsuccessfully, to persuade him to approve of the project which had been submitted to the German, and was about to be submitted to the French Government.

Since leaving Paris M. Boerescо had written to M. Bleichröder to ask him to specify the conditions which he considers would be acceptable to the Jewish community, and this M. Bleichröder has done.

What the community would require is—

1. That the principle of religious liberty shall be acknowledged.

2. That Israelites who have been born in Roumania, and who are not under foreign protection, shall, on attaining their majority, or shortly afterwards, be entitled to all the privileges of Roumanian citizens, without the necessity of applying to the Chambers for their naturalization.

3. That the children born hereafter of Jewish parents shall, from the date of their birth, if not under foreign protection, be considered Roumanian citizens.

4. That those Israelites who have not been born in the country shall, if not under foreign protection, be entitled, after a residence of ten years, to apply to the Chambers for naturalization.

5. That as regards the immediate application of the principle of religious liberty, a certain number of Israelites shall at once be placed on the footing of Roumanian citizens.

Upon my asking M. Bleichroder whether these latter were to be selected according to the system of "Categories," or according to the plan of "Nominal Lists,"

proposed by M. Boerescu, he said that, if the Roumanian Government were willing to agree to the other conditions, it might be advisable to make some concession as to the mode of selection, and to allow the term "Nominal Lists" to be substituted for "Categories," so long as it was clearly understood that, as a matter of fact, the persons who were to profit by the immediate application of the principle of equality were to be chosen from among those who possessed the qualifications which would have included them in the "Categories."

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 300.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 22.*)

(No. 663.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 21, 1879.*

WITH reference to Sir H. Layard's telegram No. 653, Greek Commissioners have been instructed to submit following declaration in substitution for the Turkish declaration:—

"The object of the negotiations being to facilitate to the two States an understanding desired by Europe at Berlin with regard to a rectification of frontiers destined to establish relations of reciprocal and stable security, the two parties are agreed to accept as point of departure and as base of discussion the indications of Protocol 13."

No. 301.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 22.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 21, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to thank your Lordship for granting me permission to proceed to Cyprus and take up appointment on completion of present employment.

Maps of boundary of West Adrianople have arrived; two small portions still unfinished on northern side of watershed not sufficient to cause myself delay. Russian topographers ascribe delay to removal of Turkish escort on disbandment of troops quartered near frontier.

Turkish Government is taking steps to furnish necessary escort.

Commission expect to complete work about the 20th October.

No. 302.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 1204.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 22, 1879.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch which has been communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador, forwarding Reports received by the Porte respecting the proceedings of the Gymnastic Societies in Eastern Roumelia, and the manner in which these associations have been supplied with arms and ammunition, and also inclosing correspondence respecting the treatment of the Mussulman inhabitants of Bulgaria.

I have informed Musurus Pasha that the papers relative to this latter subject should be sent to Her Majesty's Consul-General in Bulgaria, who would be instructed to renew very earnestly the representations which he has already made to the Government of the Principality as to the necessity of taking effective measures for the protection of the Mussulman population.

With regard to the Gymnastic Societies in Eastern Roumelia, I have expressed to his Excellency my regret that Aleko Pasha's conduct as Governor-General should so little have justified the good opinion which the Porte had formed of him.

I pointed out that the only effective method of preventing the entry of guns and cartridges at Bourgas was to send a force to occupy that port. The force must, however, be a sufficiently large one, as the occupation would not improbably be resisted.

I also stated to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government had some time ago received information of the distribution of cartridges alluded to in the Reports communicated by him, and had made representations to the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

P.S.—I inclose herewith, for your information, copy of the instruction which I have addressed to Mr. Palgrave, in accordance with the promise given to Musurus Pasha.

No. 303.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 23.*)

(No. 232.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September 8, 1879.*

NUMEROUS complaints having been brought to me of the state of affairs in the neighbouring department, I proceeded to Tatar-Bazardjik on the 1st instant, accompanied by Mr. Consul Calvert and Selim Effendi, Turkish Secretary to the European Commission.

On reaching the town of Tatar-Bazardjik we found the principal street encumbered by a detachment of militia, which was followed by a battalion of armed gymnasts, 800 to 1,000 strong, at the head of which rode the Bulgarian officer in command of the local militia, while the companies were flanked by militia drill-sergeants. This force was proceeding, with colours flying and cheered by a Russian song, to perform its usual exercises, which take place, under similar circumstances, twice a-week.

In order to extend our tour we left Tatar-Bazardjik, after resting our horses, and reached Baron Hirsch's wood-cutting establishment at Bellova the same evening.

At the latter place a very gloomy account, coloured to some extent, perhaps, by the grievances under which the representatives of Baron Hirsch are labouring, was given to me of the condition of that part of the country, and more particularly as regards the Bulgarian peasantry, with whom these representatives are in immediate contact.

But a lengthy and minute cross-examination appeared to me to establish the fact that the condition of that district was one which, if not amounting to actual anarchy and lawlessness, bordered very closely upon it.

The villagers of Bellova, who are exclusively Bulgarian, had received only five or six weeks previously a further supply of 170 rifles and seven cases of ammunition from Samakoff in Bulgaria.

During the Russian occupation they had received a gift of rifles and ball cartridges (to the extent of eight cases), which had been forwarded from Philippopoli. The whole of the ammunition was still stored in the village church.

The arms had only a few days before been used in the settlement of a quarrel with some neighbouring villagers of the same race in respect to the right claimed by the latter of cutting wood for fuel in the forest of Bellova.

The claimants of that right had been forcibly repulsed on their first attempt to establish it, but returning in larger numbers, with thirty bullock carts, they had been met by their fellow Bulgarians of Bellova in martial array, and forced to retreat with the loss of their tools.

On returning to Tatar-Bazardjik I called upon the Prefect, and had a long conversation with him on the political and material condition of his department. His views, as expressed to me, were of a moderate order, but conveyed an impression of weakness and administrative incapacity, attributable, in some degree, to the fact that his previous occupation, like that of many of the principal officials in this province, had been confined to tuition in schools. One of the Councillors of Prefecture, whose acquaintance I also made, had likewise been a schoolmaster, but I was favourably impressed with the wisdom he displayed in acknowledging that his previous calling had suited him best, and that he had thoughts of returning to it.

I had already ascertained from another source that the Prefect and his Councillors exercised but little influence over the affairs of the department, and that the real administrative power was vested in the hands of two local representatives of the

National Committee, whose advice and instructions the Prefect was compelled to follow.

The influence of those representatives is so great that, fearing lest the treatment which the Turks have been receiving at the hands of the Bulgarians at Tatar-Bazardjik should alienate from the national cause the sympathies of Europe, they have recently been in the habit of meeting trains arriving with Turkish refugees, with the object of affording protection to the latter. They had also, I was told, organized patrols of their own for the purpose of preventing incendiarism and the molestation of Turks at night. It was proved to me, however, that their efforts have not been crowned with much success. Turkish houses were frequently broken into at night and robbed by Bulgarians, armed with rifles. Two of the victims of such outrages had come to me at Philippopoli, and had exhibited to me the bayonet wounds they had received.

As regards incendiarism, the appearance of the town bore ample testimony to the extent to which that crime has been carried at Tatar-Bazardjik. The greater part of the Turkish quarter is in ruins, some of which I found smoking, and during the night I spent in that desolate-looking town a fire broke out again about midnight and destroyed one of the largest remaining Turkish houses, together with several dwellings and shops belonging to Mussulmans.

The Prefect acknowledged his alarm at the frequency of such fires, which, he said, had recently recommenced after a lull of about a month; but he gave me to understand that, although he had taken every possible means to prevent conflagrations, his efforts had been in vain, and I gathered that he was, in reality, powerless in the matter.

He agreed with me in the necessity of protecting the Turkish inhabitants, not only as a question of justice and humanity, but also in view of the consequence of the desperation to which the Turks might be driven.

Strolling through the streets we were struck by the smallness of the number of Turks whom we met, but a shower of rain having compelled us to take shelter in a khan, we there found a considerable number of Turks assembled, and subsequently we saw them collected in large groups in other khans and coffee shops. Having ascertained who we were, they began to pour their grievances into our ears, but as we were afraid of collecting a crowd we left the khan, and invited the Turks to send some of their principal men to us at the hotel.

On our way back we found a large crowd assembled at the police office, and having penetrated it with the aid of a gendarme, we found ourselves in front of a bullock-cart containing the bodies of two Bulgarians who had been shot with rifles early that morning, close to the high road at a village only an hour and a-quarter distant from Tatar-Bazardjik. One of the victims was recognized as a pig-dealer, returning to Samakow with the produce of his sales in cash; the other was probably his companion. Each had received two mortal wounds, one man having been shot in front, the other in the back.

From the statements made to me by the police officials, we discovered that they must have been murdered only two or three hours before we passed the spot where the crime was committed. The crowd was satisfied that the assassins must have been Turks, as a mercenary object was undiscoverable, from the fact that a sum of £T. 5 had been found on one of the bodies.

The incorrectness of this assumption was, however, evident from the fact that there are no Turkish villages in the vicinity of the spot where the men were killed, and also since no Turks could possibly have travelled with arms on such a frequented road. Moreover, it was subsequently proved that the pig-dealer had a sum of £T. 300 upon him when he left Tatar-Bazardjik. I was much struck by the indifference of the men, women, and children who stood gazing at the ghastly spectacle.

A deputation of Turks soon waited upon us, headed by the Makhtar and the Mollah. Even if the grievances, of which they gave a long account, had been purposely exaggerated, their haggard, careworn, and scared appearance bore ample testimony to their alarm and sufferings.

They affirmed that the Turkish population was afraid of appearing in the streets or frequenting the bazaar; that they were consequently unable to obtain any employment, and that the Bulgarians purposely kept them out of work; that whenever a Turkish house was claimed from a Bulgarian occupant, the latter either set fire to it or threatened to do so if any attempt was made to take possession of it; that incendiary fires were so frequent that many Turkish families kept their goods and chattels ready loaded on bullock-carts; that 500 men, women, and children had no bread to eat; and, in fact, that their position was critical and unbearable.

They stated, among many other complaints, that, on the first night of Ramazan, their principal remaining mosque, called the Piri Djamissi, was burnt to the ground, and that the Bulgarians of the town openly boasted of having set fire to it. On several subsequent nights Bulgarians ascended their minarets, extinguished the lights with which they are illuminated during Ramazan, and broke the lamps. A few days before our arrival a party of cavalrymen, assisted by Bulgarian civilians, surrounded several mosques at the hour of evening prayer, and drove away with blows the Mussulmans who tried to enter. The Imam of the Pasha Mahallé mosque, who related the above incident, was beaten and robbed of his shoes on this occasion. On complaint being made by the Turks to the authorities, the Prefect had contented himself with reprimanding the culprits.

Nedjib Agha, one of the leading Turks, related that, a month previously, he had been sued by a Bulgarian for an imaginary debt of some thousands of piastres, which he was condemned to pay by the Local Court; that he demurred to such an unjust sentence, but was imprisoned for a fortnight, at the expiration of which he made up his mind to pay the sum in question. He stated that cases of this kind were of great frequency, and that whenever a Turk was known to have money, he was tolerably sure to be sued by Bulgarians for fictitious claims, which were invariably decided in favour of the Bulgarians.

A few nights before our arrival the house inhabited by a certain Hadji Suleiman, of Streldja, had been broken into by a band of armed Bulgarians, who wounded, with knives and bayonets, several of the inmates, including one woman. Similar incidents were constantly occurring.

In dismissing the deputation, with a gift of £T. 10 (out of the small refugee fund at my disposal) for the partial relief of the more necessitous Turkish families, I exhorted them to further patience, and urged upon them the necessity of keeping perfectly quiet. Their sufferings, I added, would be made known to the Local Administration as well as to the Governments of Europe, and they might therefore rely on their early cessation.

On the invitation of a Greek merchant of perfect respectability, we proceeded to his house, and there met some more Turks, as well as the Chief of the eight Turkish villages of the Cepina Valley.

Their stories were all to the same effect, and entirely corroborated what I had heard of the state of the Department of Tatar-Bazardjik before I left Philippopoli. The Greek merchant amply confirmed the statements that were made to us in exemplification of the treatment which the Turks were receiving at the hands of the Bulgarians, and I can only add that I left Tatar-Bazardjik under a most painful impression, and convinced that the endurance of the Turkish population could not last much longer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 304.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 233. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 8, 1879.

THE Exarch called upon me yesterday morning to speak about the state of affairs in this province. He told me that a priest from Tatar-Bazardjik, for whom he had sent, had entirely confirmed the statements I had made in his presence to the Governor-General.

His Beatitude acknowledged that he was much impressed with the gravity of the situation, and said that his anxiety was shared by the Metropolitan Panaretos, who intended to address to the rural clergy a pastoral letter enjoining the teaching of moderation and humanity.

A long conversation ensued on the causes by which such a lamentable state of affairs had been produced, and the remedies that might still be available for the purpose of averting calamities which otherwise seemed inevitable.

The Prelate spoke with much frankness of the incapacity and inaction of the Governor-General and the Secretary-General, and entirely coincided in the opinion which I have long held as to the absence of any other real authority than that of the "National Committee" and its armed bands.

In reply to my observation, that the Governor-General had relinquished the

authority with which he had been provided by the Sultan and by Europe from the moment he had donned the kalpak, his Beatitude said that, in his opinion, that authority might still have been retained if the Governor-General had subsequently shown courage and firmness. In addition to the absence of those qualities, Aleko Pasha had shown no administrative industry, and had allowed himself to be instructed and guided by the very few persons with whom, by his isolated manner of living, he had placed himself in communication.

The Exarch observed that he had been shocked to hear the Governor-General tell me that he only knew what was going on in the province from the British Consul-General; and, when I explained to his Beatitude that even that statement was wanting in veracity, the Exarch rejoined that, had it even been correct, the Governor-General had pronounced his own condemnation.

The strictures which he then proceeded to make on the Secretary-General were even more severe. He said the latter spent his time in looking into small matters of detail and neglected those of importance. The type he represented was that of an Ottoman functionary of the old school, willing to believe, from sheer inertness, that all was right so long as no startling event occurred to prove the contrary. Whilst deceiving himself, he had deceived the Governor-General, and brought the province into a condition of anarchy and disorder from which it would now be difficult to rescue it. He thought that, as it might be a difficult and critical matter to get rid of Aleko Pasha, considerable benefit might accrue from the removal of M. Christoviez. For the present, however, his only hope was in the ability and firmness of General Strecker, who might, perhaps, succeed in reducing the militia to order and subordination, and in devising a scheme by which the Gymnastic Societies might be gradually dissolved.

Having returned the visit of the Exarch this morning, I had some further conversation with his Beatitude in the same sense. He said I had certainly roused the Government to an unusual amount of activity, and had thoroughly alarmed them. The Prefect of Tatar-Bazardjik had arrived, and General Strecker had been sent to that town to inquire into the condition of the local militia.

The Exarch observed again that the entire administrative machine was out of order, and the Secretary-General was the principal screw that was loose in it. The Governor-General might be allowed to retain the position of a "dummy," provided he had an enlightened and active Secretary-General to govern in his name.

I asked the Prelate whether he thought the Provincial Assembly would be composed of elements in which reliance could be placed for the improvement of the present condition of the province. His Beatitude replied that he had some hope of that body being composed, in great part, of moderate and sensible men, and that he was doing his best to secure the election of such persons. In reply, however, to a further question, he said that the Greeks would probably not obtain more than two or three seats, and, notwithstanding my expressions of regret at such a result, the Exarch showed that he shared the general Bulgarian prejudice against the Greek population of this province, principally on the ground of their not being content with the position of Rouméliotes, and wishing to realize the "grand idea" of a Byzantine Empire.

At the same time, he strongly deprecated the rancorous language of the local Bulgarian press, which was doing its best to widen the breach between the two races.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

P.S.—Since writing the above I learn that General Strecker has not yet left for Tatar-Bazardjik.

T. M.

No. 305.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 231.) *Philippopoli, September* 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of the *compte-rendu* of the last sitting of the Commission, which was held on the 4th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 305.

Compte-rendu de la Séance No. 79, tenue le $\frac{23 \text{ Août}}{4 \text{ Septembre}}$, 1879 (18 *Ramazan*, 1296), *à la Délégation de France à Philippopoli.*

Présidence du BARON DE RING.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. Cingria.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Mr. Michell.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures du soir.

Le compte-rendu de la dernière séance, lu par *M. Rozet*, est adopté.

Le Président annonce qu'il a reçu, le $\frac{17}{29}$ Août, une lettre du Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale, par laquelle ce dignitaire donne à la Commission Européenne décharge des sommes qui se trouvaient dans les Caisses de la province au moment de la remise de l'Administration des Finances entre les mains des nouvelles autorités.

Cette pièce est ainsi conçue :—

"M. le Président, "*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{17}{29}$ *Août*, 1879.

"J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que la remise de l'Administration Financière entre les mains des autorités de cette province a été effectuée.

"Les sommes qui se trouvaient dans les Caisses de l'Etat le $\frac{22 \text{ Mai}}{3 \text{ Juin}}$ 1879, jour de la remise, ont été reçues par l'Administration des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale. Ces sommes s'élevaient à un total de 8,499,508 prs. 45 p.

Ce total se répartit sur les différentes Caisses de la province comme suit :—

			Prs.	p.
"1.	Caisse provinciale à Philippopoli, le 22 Mai (v.s.)	.. .. ..	3,457,772	45½
2.	Comptes courants de la Banque "	..	849,500	00
3.	Caisse de l'arrondissement de Philippopoli, le 22 Mai (v.s.)	.. ..	1,995,503	12½
4.	" Tatar Bazardjik "		113,983	80
5.	" Kezanlik "		107,866	50
6.	" Eski-Zaghra "		123,200	05
7.	" Haskeui "		129,096	98½
8.	" Tchirpan "		54,286	42½
9.	" Hermanly "		181,859	92½
10.	" Carlovo "		550,309	42½
11.	" Slivno "		242,517	85
12.	" Eni-Zaghra "		27,707	13½
13.	" Yamboli "		513,131	00
14.	" Karnobat, au 24 Mai (v.s.)		75,955	85
15.	" Aïdos, le 22 Mai (v.s.)		48,506	82½
16.	" Achiolo "		159,240	21½
17.	" Bourgas, le 31 Mai (v.s.)		469,483	76
18.	" Kizil-Agatch, le 22 Mai (v.s.)		152,090	00
			8,349,001	32½

Caisse de l'Administration des Accises.

		Prs.	p.		
19.	A Philippopoli	80,687	62½		
20.	A Stanimaka	69,819	60		
				150,507	12½
	Total			8,499,508	45"

"Je vous prie, M. le Président, de considérer la présente comme quittance des sommes énumérées ci-dessus, lesquelles ont été rendues aux autorités du pays, et en même temps comme décharge générale pour la remise faite par la Commission Européenne de l'Administration des Finances de la Province.

"Veuillez, &c.
"Le Gouverneur-Général,
(Signé) "A. BOGORIDI."

Le Président donne ensuite lecture du document suivant, qui lui a été communiqué par M. Schmidt, et dont l'exactitude a été certifiée par Abro Effendi et M. de Coutouly en vertu du mandat que leur a donnée la Commission Européenne à la Séance No. 78:—

"Je soussigné, Directeur des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale, déclare que le solde en caisse au 3 Juin, 1879 (N. S.), dans les Caisses Publiques de la Roumélie Orientale s'élevait à 8,499,508 prs. 45 p. du tarif officiel de la province, ainsi qu'il appert du compte détaillé ci-contre annexé.

"*Philippopoli, le* 19 *Août*, 1879 (N.S.).

(Signé) "A. SCHMIDT."

SITUATION Générale des Caisses de la Province au $\frac{22\ \text{Mai}}{3\ \text{Juin}}$ 1879.

"Nos.			Soldes en Caisse. Prs.	p.
1	Caisse Provinciale	..	3,467,772	45½
2	Banque Impériale Ottomane	..	849,500	00
3	Philippopoli	..	1,095,503	12½
4	Tatar-Bazardjik	..	113,983	80
5	Kezanlik	..	107,866	50
6	Eski-Zaghra	..	123,290	05
7	Haskeui	..	129,096	96½
8	Tchirpan	..	54,286	42½
9	Hermanly	..	181,859	92½
10	Carlovo	..	556,309	42½
11	Slivno	..	242,517	85
12	Yéni-Zaghra	..	27,707	13½
13	Yamboli	..	515,131	00
14	Karnabat	..	75,955	85
15	Aïdos	..	48,506	82½
16	Achioh-Messemvria	..	159,240	21½
17	Bourgas	..	459,183	76
18	Kizil-Agatch	..	152,090	00
19	Contributions Indirectes.	Philippopoli ..	80,087	62½
20	"	Staniouska ..	69,819	60
	Total	..	8,499,508	45"

"N.B.—Les sommes figurant aux rubriques 19 et 20, n'ayant été versées dans la Caisse de l'arrondissement de Philippopoli qu'après la vérification de cette Caisse, qui a eu lieu le $\frac{22\ \text{Mai}}{3\ \text{Juin}}$ 1879, ne sont pas comprises dans le compte général des revenus."

Certifié conforme aux pièces justificatives qui nous ont été soumises par M. Schmidt, Directeur des Finances:

(Signé) ABRO.
G. DE COUTOULY.

Philippopoli, le 29 *Août*, 1879.

Le Président annonce que M. Schmidt demande à faire une communication à l'Assemblée.

Avec l'assentiment des Commissaires, le Directeur-Général des Finances est introduit.

Il donne lecture du Rapport suivant:—

"*Rapport à la Commission Européenne.*

"*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{15}{27}$ *Août*, 1879.

"Messieurs,

"J'ai l'honneur de vous soumettre par la présente les comptes de l'Administration Financière dont vous aviez bien voulu me confier la direction, et une série de Tableaux

montrant le mouvement des revenus et des dépenses de cette province, durant votre administration financière.

"Cette Administration a virtuellement commencé le $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre, 1878, mais la remise de la première Caisse n'a eu lieu que le $\frac{20\ \text{Octobre}}{1\ \text{Novembre}}$.

"Pour avoir un point de départ uniforme, j'ai adopté la date du $\frac{1}{13}$ Octobre pour commencer les comptes, de sorte que tous les Tableaux que j'ai l'honneur de vous soumettre embrassent la période du $\frac{1}{13}$ Octobre, 1878, au $\frac{22\ \text{Mai}}{3\ \text{Juin}}$, 1879, date de la remise de l'Administration Financière aux autorités du pays.

"L'établissement de la comptabilité des mois d'Octobre, de Novembre, et de Décembre, 1878, a rencontré de très-grandes difficultés.

D'abord le solde qui se trouvait dans le Caisses d'Arrondissement au 30 Septembre (v. s.), ne correspondait pas avec les états qui nous étaient fournis par l'Administration Russe. D'après ces états, dont le résumé figure dans le Protocole No. 31, le solde des Caisses du Gouvernement de Philippopoli devait s'élever à 100,327 r. 95 c. où, à 17 piastres, à 1,773,077 piastres, tandis que les Caisses qui nous ont été remises dans le Gouvernement de Philippopoli ne contenaient que 1,537,183 piastres.

"Le Gouverneur de Philippopoli n'était pas à même d'expliquer d'une manière satisfaisante cette différence de 236,493 piastres. Ce déficit provenait d'un côté des soldes des Caisses du Conseil d'Arrondissement de Moustapha-Pacha et de quelques Conseils Municipaux, figurant dans les états du Gouverneur, mais qui n'ont pas été remis à la Commission Européenne; d'un autre côté le déficit avait pour origine les différences des monnaies, parce que dans plusieurs Caisses les roubles papier figuraient au même prix que les roubles métalliques, et dans toutes les Caisses le tarif des monnaies était différent.

"Les Caisses du département de Slivno devaient contenir au 30 Septembre (v. s.) un solde de 291,035 fr. 29 c. soit, à 4¼, 1,236,900 piastres, suivant les états présentés par le Gouverneur. Mais en réalité ces Caisses contenaient 1,435,503 piastres, ou 198,603 piastres en plus.

"Le Gouverneur de Slivno, dans sa lettre du 5 Mai (v. s.), explique cette différence en disant:—

"'Je dois ajouter que la différence du solde réel de 291,035 fr. 29 c. et la somme qui se trouvait dans les Caisses provient, selon toute probabilité, de la mauvaise confection de cet état.'

"L'absence d'un étalon uniforme pour les comptes des différentes Caisses et les taux variables des monnaies rendaient bien difficile la confection des états généraux. Cette circonstance nécessitait des écritures fréquentes pour perte d'agio, que vous retrouverez sous le titre 'différences à régler,' et que vous pouvez constater aussi par la différence qui existe dans le compte 'virements de Caisse.'

"Avec l'introduction du Tarif de la Commission Européenne au 1er Janvier, 1879, ces différences disparaissent. Le 30 Avril seulement il y a encore des écritures pour pertes d'agio, à cause du changement du tarif pour le rouble argent, dont la valeur était exissée de 17 piastres à 16 piastres.

"Les Tableaux Nos. 11, 12, 13, et 14 donnent un résumé succinct de votre Administration Financière, savoir:—

		Prs.	p.
"(a.)	Pour les revenus de l'État—		
	Solde au 30 Septembre, 1878	161,322	52½
	Revenus réels du 1er Octobre, 1878, au 22 Mai, 1879	12,013,521	96½
	Dépenses réelles en y ajoutant la différence sur les virements pour perte d'agio, soit, 96,312 prs. 07¾ p.	8,376,304	53½
	Solde au 22 Mai, appartenant à l'État .. .	4,098,539	94½
(b.)	Pour les Revenus des biens des fugitifs Musulmans. (Sommes conditionnelles)—		
	Solde au 1er Octobre, 1878	2,511,362	73½
	Revenus du 1er Octobre, 1878, au 22 Mai, 1879	2,630,122	08½
		5,141,484	82½
	Dépenses du 1er Octobre, 1878, au 22 Mai, 1879 . ..	740,516	32
	Solde au 22 Mai, 1879	4,400,968	50½
	Solde appartenant à l'État	4,098,539	94½
	Solde total au 22 Mai, 1879	8,499,508	45"

"Ainsi le solde en caisse, que vous avez livré à la nouvelle Administration, est supérieur de 5,526,823 piastres au solde que vous avez trouvé lorsque vous avez pris

l'Administration Financière entre vos mains. Le solde des sommes conditionnelles provenant des biens des réfugiés Musulmans est monté de 2,511,362 piastres à 4,400,968 piastres et le solde des revenus de l'Etat de 461,322 piastres à 4,098,040 piastres.

"Outre ce solde en espèces, vous avez laissé à la nouvelle Administration, l'encaissement de la taxe sur les moutons, dont les rôles d'enregistrement étaient terminés et accusaient un total de 6,000,000 piastres; la perception de cet impôt ne venait que de commencer et 800,000 piastres seulement étaient entrées dans les Caisses lors de la clôture des comptes.

"En général, les revenus de l'Etat pendant votre administration ont été satisfaisants. J'aurai voulu vous soumettre un Tableau comparatif des revenus encaissés sous votre administration et la précédente, mais la nature des revenus et l'époque de leur perception ne coïncide pas; pour cette raison une comparaison générale est impossible.

"Pour les revenus directs, la taxe sur les moutons pourrait seulement servir de comparaison, et j'ai le plaisir de constater que les listes d'enregistrement de 1879 accusent une augmentation de 40 pour cent sur les encaissements effectués sur la taxe de l'année passée.

"Si la comparaison des revenus des Contributions Directes ne peut se faire, elle peut être faite aisément pour les Contributions Indirectes.

"Le Tableau No. 17 donne les revenus des Contributions Indirectes pour les huit mois de votre administration, savoir: du 1er Octobre, 1878, au 31 Mai, 1879. Leur total s'élève à 6,118,079 piastres.

"Les revenus des mêmes impôts indirects se sont élevés pendant huit mois de la gestion précédente, de Janvier à fin Septembre 1878, à 4,066,921 piastres, suivant Tableau No. 18.

"Il y a donc pour le même espace de temps une augmentation des revenus de plus de 50 pour cent, augmentation qui est due à un meilleur système de surveillance, et à quelques mesures administratives que vous avez prises, telles que l'exclusion des banderolles Ottomanes et Russes.

"Je ferai remarquer en outre que les impôts sur le tabac et les spiritueux, qui, suivant le Tableau No. 17, ont rapporté pendant les huit mois de votre administration 5,119,679 piastres, étaient inscrits pour douze mois (Philippopoli, Slivno, et Bourgas), dans le Budget Ottoman de l'année 1290 (1874-75) pour 4,963,493 32·40 piastres; il y a donc de ce chef également une augmentation de 50 pour cent à constater.

"Ces bons résultats sont dus principalement au zèle et au dévouement de vos employés. Si au commencement il y a eu quelques rares exceptions, qui démontraient que le sentiment du devoir n'était pas suffisamment développé, j'ai pu constater avec satisfaction que la plupart des fonctionnaires étaient inspirés de principes d'honneur. Cette qualité et l'expérience des affaires, qui augmente avec la durée des services, sont une garantie pour l'avenir de l'Administration Financière de cette province. Il me serait difficile de vous signaler les noms des employés les plus méritants de peur d'en omettre quelques-uns, mais, vous ayant parlé des résultats obtenus dans les Contributions Indirectes, il serait injuste d'oublier M. Stoëff, que vous avez nommé au poste d'Inspecteur-Général des Contributions Indirectes. Il s'est voué à sa tâche avec une grande intelligence et un zèle infatigable.

"La remise de l'Administration Financière entre les mains des nouvelles autorités du pays a eu lieu. Le solde qui se trouvait dans les Caisses de l'Etat, et qui s'élevait, comme il a été dit plus haut, à 8,499,508 45·100 piastres, a été remis aux nouvelles autorités.

"Je prie donc la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale de bien vouloir me donner décharge pour la gestion de l'Administration des Finances, dont elle m'avait confié la direction.

"Messieurs, je ne veux pas terminer ce Rapport sans vous exprimer encore une fois ma vive reconnaissance pour la marque de confiance que vous m'avez montrée en me nommant aux importantes fonctions de Directeur de votre Administration Financière.

"Cette époque ne s'effacera jamais de ma mémoire, et je garderai toujours un précieux souvenir de toutes les preuves de sympathie et de bienveillance que les membres de la Commission Européenne n'ont cessé de me montrer pendant la durée de mes fonctions, quelquefois pénibles.

"Veuillez, &c.

"Le Directeur-Général des Finances,
(Signé) "A. SCHMIDT."

La Commission décide que les Tableaux annexés au Rapport de M. Schmidt sont trop considérables pour figurer au compte-rendu, et qu'ils seront restitués à l'Administration Financière revêtus du visa du Président de la Commission.

Le Président croit être l'interprète de tous ses collègues en exprimant de nouveau à M. Schmidt toute la satisfaction de la Commission Européenne pour le zèle intelligent, et le fermeté dont le Directeur-Général a donné tant de preuves depuis près d'une année. Le Baron de Ring prie en même temps M. Schmidt de transmettre à tous les employés de sa Direction les remerciements de la Commission Européenne.

L'ordre du jour appelle la continuation du débat sur le Projet de Déclaration présenté par le Baron de Ring.

M. Vernoni donne lecture du discours suivant:—

"Messieurs,

"Je regrette que l'amendement que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous présenter à la dernière séance, et qui devait tenir lieu et place de la Déclaration qui nous a été proposée par M. le Commissaire de France sur la question de l'installation du cordon douanier sur la frontière qui sépare la Roumélie Orientale de la Principauté de Bulgarie, n'ait pas obtenu la majorité des voix. Mon amendement avait pour but, tout en admettant le fond de la question, qu'il n'a jamais été contesté, savoir: l'installation immédiate du cordon douanier et l'application des Tarifs actuels ou futures dans l'Empire, d'éviter la discussion sur les détails de la Déclaration de mon honorable collègue; car je considère l'ensemble des mesures qui sont proposées dans ce Projet comme contraire à l'esprit et la lettre du Statut.

"L'Article XIII du Traité de Berlin décide d'une manière claire et évidente que 'la Roumélie Orientale restera placée sous l'autorité politique et militaire directe de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan dans des conditions d'autonomie administrative.' La Commission a été chargée d'appliquer dans ses détails ce principe; ces détails sont compris dans le Statut élaboré par elle, accepté par les Gouvernements que nous avons l'honneur de représenter, et sanctionné par Sa Majesté le Sultan. L'objet de notre seconde mission a été de veiller à la stricte exécution du Statut.

"L'Article CXCVI de cette œuvre législative dit que 'les droits de douane sont perçus par l'Administration des Finances de la province conformément aux Traités et aux Tarifs en vigueur dans l'Empire.' Comment pourrait-on accepter maintenant une ingérence du Gouvernement central dans cette Administration sans porter préjudice au principe de l'autonomie administrative? En admettant que des Inspecteurs Douaniers soient envoyés par le Gouvernement Central pour surveiller l'Administration des Douanes de la province, vous ne pouvez pas, si vous êtes conséquents, ne pas admettre aussi que le Gouvernement Central puisse s'immiscer et exercer une surveillance dans l'Administration de la Justice, dans celle de l'Instruction Publique, &c. Cette ingérence je ne saurais l'admettre et je la considérerais comme une infraction du Traité de Berlin et une violation du Statut, complément de cet acte international.

"Si j'envisage la question qui nous occupe, par son côté pratique, je ne puis pas ne pas déclarer que je ne partage pas les préoccupations du Baron de Ring. Je vous ai déjà dit, dans la séance précédente, qu'il m'était impossible d'admettre que le trafic des marchandises étrangères prît une autre voie que celle de Constantinople pour arriver en Roumélie Orientale; cette voie étant la plus économique et la plus commode, les trafiquants ne l'abandonnant certes pas pour prendre celle de la Bulgarie, faisant ainsi franchir à leurs marchandises, et avec de grandes difficultés, tout le territoire de la Principauté et les hautes chaînes des Balkans pour les introduire dans cette province autonome. Le négociant vise dans ses spéculations au plus grand bénéfice; pour parvenir à ce résultat, il cherche pour ses marchandises la voie la plus commode, la plus courte et présentant le moins de frais de transport possible. Vous conviendrez, Messieurs, que ce n'est pas la voie de la Bulgarie qui leur donnerait ces avantages. Outre les inconvénients que je viens d'énumérer, j'ajouterai encore que les compagnies d'assurances refuseront de garantir des marchandises auxquelles on ferait faire des évolutions nombreuses accompagnées de grands risques.

"Mon collègue de France a dit, à la dernière séance, que, dans une époque plus ou moins lointaine, on pourrait, en perçant les Balkans, relier la Principauté voisine avec la Roumélie Orientale par des lignes de chemins de fer et faciliter ainsi cette nouvelle voie de trafic. Une telle éventualité est très-éloignée, et, comme le Prince Tzerotelew vous l'a fait remarquer, si elle se réalisait, les Gouvernements intéressés arriveraient alors à une entente pour garantir les intérêts du commerce de leurs pays;

mais en ce moment, est-il juste, en vue d'une éventualité problématique, de sacrifier les intérêts du présent ?

" M. le Baron de Ring a parlé de marchandises légères qui sont susceptibles aujourd'hui même d'un transport facile et peuvent supporter de grands frais. En nous proposant les mesures contenues dans sa Déclaration, j'ai lieu de croire que l'auteur a voulu faire allusion aux pierres précieuses, aux bijouteries, et aux dentelles ; évidemment il craint que ces marchandises de grande valeur transitant à travers la Bulgarie et passant en contrebande la frontière de la Roumélie Orientale, puissent arriver au marché de Constantinople et nuire ainsi au commerce des pays qui se servent de la voie de mer. Pour empêcher ces abus éventuels, il voudrait faire surveiller le douanier Roumélioto par le douanier de Constantinople. Je dois donc admettre que, pour mon collègue de France, il s'agit simplement d'une question de méfiance à l'égard du douanier Roumélioto, méfiance que pour ma part je ne partage pas ; bien au contraire, je dois constater les résultats obtenus par l'Administration Douanière de la province lorsque la gestion des finances de ce pays était entre les mains de la Commission Européenne, et ensuite depuis l'installation de la nouvelle Administration, et faire remarquer en outre que le produit des Contributions Indirectes surtout à augmenté dans une proportion surprenante. J'ai sous les yeux un Tableau comparatif des revenus actuels des dites Contributions dans les districts de Philippopoli et de Slivno. Pendant l'année 1874-75 ces revenus ont donné à l'ancienne Administration 4,963,491 piastres. Pendant les huit mois de la gestion financière Russe ces mêmes revenus ont donné 4,066,921 piastres ; tandis que pendant la gestion de huit mois de la Commission ils ont monté à 6,118,579 piastres, résultat qui donne un excédant de 50 pour cent sur les gestions Turque et Russe. Ceci nous prouve que les préposés des douanes font ici consciencieusement leur devoir et qu'ils sont intègres. Pouvez-vous dire la même chose des douaniers Turcs que vous proposez pour surveillants ? Je voudrais que M. le Baron de Ring eût le loisir et l'occasion de passer en revue les registres des douanes de Constantinople. Il serait peut-être surpris de n'y trouver enregistrée aucune partie de pierres précieuses ; et pourtant le marché de Constantinople en était et en est encore bien pourvu. Je pourrais dire presque la même chose de la bijouterie et de l'horlogerie ; une minime partie acquitte les droits de douane en pénétrant sur le marché. Ainsi, en voulant introduire des Inspecteurs étrangers dans les douanes Roumélioles vous n'atteindrez pas votre but et vous sacrifierez le principe de l'autonomie administrative qui a été octroyé à l'Administration Provinciale ; vous ne ferez que donner des maîtres au douanier indigène mais malheureusement ce seront de mauvais maîtres.

" Une Administration nouvelle, Messieurs, déploie d'ordinaire du zèle dans l'exercice de ses attributions ; je ne pourrais donc suspecter sans preuve du contraire le mérite des futurs douaniers Roumélioles, car je suis convaincu que le service des douanes se fera ici d'une manière satisfaisante sur la frontière comme ailleurs sans la nécessité d'un contrôle, qui pourrait par contre lui être très-nuisible, sans parler bien entendu des considérations que j'ai eu l'honneur de soumettre à votre prudence et à votre sagacité, relativement aux inconvénients qui résulteraient d'une atteinte portée au principe d'autonomie administrative qui est le fondement du Statut Organique.

" Enfin, M. le Baron de Ring dit, dans la lettre adressée le 13 Août par lui à M. de Kallay, alors Président temporaire de la Commission Européenne, qu'il faut chercher le motif qui a empêché jusqu'ici l'établissement d'une ligne douanière le long des Balkans dans des dissentiments qui existeraient entre l'Administration de la Province et l'Administration Centrale de Constantinople au sujet du partage de leurs attributions respectives pour ce qui concerne le service douanier. Les renseignements de M. le Commissaire de France à ce sujet ne me paraissent pas exacts ; aucun dissentiment n'existe entre la Porte et la province au sujet du service des douanes et, sauf la prière de faire écrire les teskérés (récépissés) délivrés par les douanes provinciales en langue Turque aussi bien qu'en langue Bulgare, pour éviter d'en faire la traduction lorsqu'ils dépassent la frontière de la Roumélie Orientale, aucune communication n'a été faite à ce sujet à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général. Je puis ajouter que la Sublime Porte n'avait nullement l'intention de soulever cette question, considérant que le Statut ne lui en donnait pas le droit, et que c'est malheureusement la Commission qui pourra donner cause à des dissentiments regrettables entre le Gouvernement Central et celui de la province.

" Vous me permettrez, Messieurs, de constater que les craintes et les préoccupations de M. le Baron de Ring sur les facilités que l'état actuel des choses donne pour exercer des fraudes au préjudice des douanes sont sans aucun fondement. Si ces fraudes ont été pratiquées jusqu'à ce jour, elles devront cesser maintenant ; les barrières douanières

consécutives qui se présentent aujourd'hui au commerce malhonnête doivent le décourager. Sous l'ancien régime une seule barrière s'opposait aux opérations du commerce frauduleux, et vous savez qu'elle n'était pas infranchissable ; à présent les contrebandiers rencontrent d'abord la ligne douanière sur le Danube, ils en trouvent une seconde aux Balkans et une troisième sur la frontière Turque, où incontestablement le contrôle doit s'exercer, car bien que la marchandise qui arrive ne paye aucun droit elle doit néanmoins prouver qu'elle l'a déjà acquitté, soit sur la ligne du Danube, soit sur celle des Balkans.

" Pour les raisons que j'ai eu l'honneur de développer et que je soumets à votre impartiale appréciation, je ne saurais m'associer aux vues de M. de Ring, que je ne puis accepter ni en théorie ni en pratique.

" Messieurs, je vous prie donc de vous joindre à moi pour engager notre honorable collègue à retirer sa Déclaration, qui, comme je me suis efforcé de vous le démontrer, n'atteindrait pas son but. Si nous parvenions à ce résultat, nous donnerions tous une nouvelle preuve de notre impartialité, et nous pourrions dire que nous avons défendu jusqu'à la fin de nos travaux les intérêts vrais et justes de la province, conformément à l'esprit de l'œuvre à laquelle nous avons apporté notre concours."

Le Baron de Ring dit qu'il a écouté avec un vif intérêt l'exposé si bien présenté et si complet que son collègue d'Italie vient de faire de ses doctrines sur la question des douanes de Roumélie. Il lui est malheureusement impossible de suivre M. Vernoni dans tous les développements de son discours ; il se bornera à relever quelques points qui paraissent plus spécialement appeler une réplique de sa part. Il ne suspecte en aucune manière l'honnêteté et le zèle des futurs douaniers Roumélioles ; son Projet de Déclaration n'est pas inspiré par un sentiment de méfiance à leur égard. Il est préoccupé de l'idée que les intérêts économiques de la province ne seront pas nécessairement et de tout point identiques avec ceux de l'Empire Ottoman, et qu'il pourra par conséquent se produire telle circonstance où les douanes Roumélioles, chargées de défendre les intérêts des deux parties, seront tentées de sacrifier ceux de l'Empire. Ainsi, dès à présent on peut prévoir le cas où la province trouverait un bénéfice certain à détourner à son profit, par des faveurs non spécifiées dans les Règlements Ottomans, certaines importations prenant jusqu'ici la voie de mer.

Le Commissaire de France ne saurait voir, comme le fait son collègue d'Italie, une atteinte à l'autonomie de la province dans le privilége revendiqué en faveur de la Porte de surveiller par des agents de son choix les douanes de Roumélie. Posséder des douanes à l'abri de tout contrôle ne constitue pas, en effet, un attribut nécessaire d'un pays autonome, puisque même des Etats Souverains s'accommodaient et s'accommodent encore d'un régime comme celui que le Statut prévoit pour la Roumélie ; témoin les Etats de l'ancien Zollverein, qui forment aujourd'hui l'Empire d'Allemagne. Le Projet de Déclaration ne tend pas plus à léser les droits de la province que ceux de l'Empire, mais à établir entre eux un juste partage d'attributions qui soit de nature à sauvegarder la position de chacun.

" M. Vernoni, comme le Prince Tzevtelew, me reproche," ajoute le Baron de Ring, " d'avoir soulevé le débat sur les douanes sans y avoir été provoqué ni par le Gouvernement Central ni par celui de la Province ; cela n'est pas tout-à-fait exact. C'est par des membres du Gouvernement Local que j'ai été rendu attentif aux divergences qui existaient entre la Porte et la province sur l'interprétation des Articles du Statut ayant trait aux douanes. Tandis que le Gouvernement Ottoman réclamait le droit de nommer tous les employés, les Directeurs Roumélioles élevaient une prétention absolument opposée ; j'ai donc cru nécessaire de faire constater que le Statut ne légitimait aucune de ces exagérations et que le système établi par nous faisait équitablement la part de chacun en donnant l'administration à la province et la surveillance à l'Empire.

" J'ai déjà, dans la dernière séance, exposé ma manière de voir sur la question au point de vue commercial, permettez-moi aujourd'hui de vous soumettre quelques considérations politiques qui ne me paraissent pas sans valeur. Nul Etat n'admettra qu'on le prive du droit de surveiller sa frontière sur une étendue de plus de 600 kilom. ; on ne peut donc pas raisonnablement demander à la Turquie de faire un pareil sacrifice. Si nous refusions à la Porte de sauvegarder ses intérêts par la présence d'agents civils dans les Balkans, elle serait fatalement amenée à y envoyer des troupes. La crainte plus ou moins fondée, entretenue peut-être par des rapports intéressés, de voir s'établir le long du Balkan une contrebande active d'armes et de munitions de guerre, pourrait l'amener à méconnaître les conseils de la prudence. Les Bulgares n'auraient pas sans doute plus que les Turcs à s'en féliciter. Pour ce qui concerne le contrôle douanier qui, d'après M. Vernoni, s'exercerait entre l'Empire et la province, je crois qu'il y a

malentendu : c'est une question d'octroi ; si l'on visite à Andrinople ou à Constantinople certaines caisses de marchandises venant de la Roumélie Orientale, c'est pour l'octroi.

"Pour toutes les raisons que je viens d'exposer, je ne puis, à mon grand regret, retirer mon Projet de Déclaration, que je crois au contraire devoir maintenir dans toutes ses parties."

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit que ni lui, ni le Commissaire d'Italie, ne contestent la nécessité d'établir au plus vite un cordon douanier le long des frontières nord de la province. Mais les propositions du Baron de Ring, dictées évidemment par une sorte de méfiance à l'égard de douanes qui seraient Roumélioles, tendent pratiquement à établir une ingérence directe du Gouvernement Ottoman dans les affaires de la province. Or, cette ingérence, ou contrôle, comme l'appelle le Commissaire de France, ne découle nullement du texte du Statut. Au contraire, dans l'énumération des fonctionnaires de la province dont la nomination est abandonnée au Sultan, on ne trouve aucune trace des Inspecteurs que le Baron de Ring veut créer aujourd'hui. En alléguant l'intérêt majeur que présentent pour la Porte certaines branches de l'Administration Provinciale, le Délégué de France pourrait également conclure à la nécessité de nommer des Inspecteurs Ottomans pour les travaux publics, pour la justice, etc. Les garanties offertes par l'Europe à la Turquie sont clairement définies dans le Statut : ce sont la nomination par le Sultan du Gouverneur-Général et l'approbation du choix des Directeurs. On risquerait de réduire à néant l'autonomie en s'appliquant, à l'heure qu'il est, à combler de prétendues lacunes du Statut Organique.

Le Rapport de M. Schmidt, lu au début de la séance, est de nature à inspirer confiance dans l'Administration Financière de la province, confiance assurément plus grande que celle que l'on pourrait avoir dans les douanes Turques, sur le mérite desquelles l'Europe est depuis long temps fixée. Les employés de la province n'offriront pas moins de garanties que les fonctionnaires Turcs.

Des infractions sérieuses aux Tarifs, commises au su de l'Administration Locale et portant préjudice au commerce des Puissances, seraient immanquablement redressés par l'intervention des Gouvernements intéressés sur les rapports de leurs Consuls.

Le Prince Tzeretelew termine en exprimant son regret de ce que le Baron de Ring ne veuille pas scinder sa motion. Il en accepte avec empressement la partie qui contient des vœux pour le prompt établissement de la ligne douanière, mais se voit obligé de refuser son adhésion à la création d'un contrôle qui ne découle pas du Statut, et n'aura vraisemblablement pour résultat que des collisions entre la Porte et la province.

Mr. Michell dit que des Inspecteurs sont d'autant plus nécessaires que les Balkans ne sont pas aujourd'hui occupés par les troupes Ottomanes. Il ne faut pas oublier que les douanes sont autant une machine politico-policière qu'une machine commerciale. La Commission en rédigeant le Statut n'a pas prévu l'éventualité de la non-occupation des Balkans ; et même si les Balkans étaient occupés militairement, l'ingérence d'Inspecteurs civils dans les douanes serait préférable à celle de fonctionnaires de l'armée.

Le Prince Tzeretelew croit devoir constater que la question des garnisons a toujours été considérée comme en dehors de la compétence de la Commission et qu'au cours de l'élaboration du Statut Organique il n'en a pas été tenu compte.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha ne s'explique pas sur quel Article du Statut ses collègues de Russie et d'Italie se fondent pour refuser à la Porte le droit de surveiller sa frontière douanière. L'Article 19 est très-clair ; il réserve les douanes à l'Empire de même que les chemins de fer, les postes, et les télégraphes ; du moment que les douanes sont réservées à l'Empire, celui-ci doit pour le moins avoir le droit d'en contrôler l'administration. Son Excellence ajoute que la Commission discutant une question de principe, il s'étonne de voir M. Vernoni et le Prince Tzeretelew profiter de l'occasion pour se livrer à des attaques intempestives contre une Administration de l'Empire. La Commission Européenne n'ayant aucune qualité pour juger l'Administration Turque, Assim Pacha proteste énergiquement contre les propos de ses collègues d'Italie et de Russie.

Le Président déclare la discussion close et met aux voix le premier Article de son Projet de Déclaration.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, et de Turquie votent pour.

Les Commissaires d'Italie et de Russie s'abstiennent.

Le Président met aux voix le deuxième Article.

La Commission adopte à l'unanimité.

Le Président met aux voix le troisième Article.

Cet Article est accepté par cinq Commissaires.

M. Vernoni s'abstient.

Le Prince Tzeretelew vote contre.

Le Président met aux voix le quatrième Article.

Cinq Commissaires votent pour.

M. Vernoni s'abstient.

Le Prince Tzeretelew vote contre.

Le Président met aux voix l'ensemble de son Projet de Déclaration.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, et de Turquie votent pour.

Les Délégués d'Italie et de Russie s'abstiennent.

Le Président annonce qu'il vient de recevoir une lettre de M. Matalas, Consul de Grèce à Philippopoli. Cette lettre constate que les étrangers ont joui en Roumélie Orientale, jusqu'à l'installation du régime actuel, du privilége d'avoir des Assesseurs de leur nation au sein des Tribunaux Locaux appelés à juger des procès mixtes, et que ce privilége leur est contesté depuis que le Général Stolipine a remis ses pouvoirs à Aléko Pacha. Le Consul de Grèce demande à la Commission Européenne si le privilége dont il s'agit a été ou non maintenu par le Statut.

Après un court échange d'idées, il demeure entendu que la lettre de M. Matalas restera déposée au bureau, qui la tiendra à la disposition de tous les membres de la Commission.

Mr. Michell donne lecture de la Déclaration suivante :—

"*Déclaration.*

"L'Article 8 du Statut Organique stipule que : 'La justice est rendue dans la Roumélie Orientale au nom du Sultan.'

"Cependant les Tribunaux de la province, dans les sentences qu'ils prononcent, ne font aucune mention du nom de Sa Majesté.

"En appelant l'attention de mes honorables collègues sur ce fait, je déclare qu'une pareille violation de l'Article 8 du Statut Organique est d'autant plus frappante que les Tribunaux devraient être les premiers à donner l'exemple de la soumission aux lois du pays."

Le Baron de Ring adhère à cette déclaration.

Le Prince Tzeretelew fait observer que les Tribunaux ne pouvaient pas spontanément changer la formule en usage : ils n'auraient pu le faire qu'après une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général.

M. de Braunschweig dit que si le fait signalé par son collègue de la Grande Bretagne est dûment constaté, il n'hésité pas à déclarer qu'il considère la manière de procéder des Tribunaux comme n'étant pas tout-à-fait conforme aux stipulations du Statut Organique.

M. Cingria se rallie à l'opinion de son collègue d'Allemagne.

Les Commissaires Ottomans adhèrent à la déclaration faite par M. Michell.

M. Vernoni croit devoir s'en tenir au Statut tel qu'il est expliqué par les Protocoles.

Mr. Michell donne lecture de la Déclaration suivante, qui lui a été inspirée, dit-il, par le triste état du pays. Il considère comme très-important de constater cet état déplorable, dans l'espoir que, d'ici à la prochaine séance, il y sera porté remède :—

"*Déclaration.*

"Les lois de l'Empire Ottoman, qui restent en vigueur dans la Roumélie Orientale, pour autant qu'elles ne sont pas contraires au Statut Organique (Art. 11), défendent aux particuliers le port d'armes sans autorisation spéciale.

"L'Article 11 du Statut Organique, tout en permettant aux habitants de la Roumélie Orientale de 's'assembler paisiblement et sans armes, en se conformant aux lois qui peuvent régler l'exercice de ce droit,' stipule néanmoins que les 'rassemblements en plein air restent entièrement soumis aux lois de police.'

"L'Article 12 du même Statut, en reconnaissant aux 'habitants de la Roumélie Orientale le droit de former des associations,' interdit celles de ces associations dont le but ou les moyens qu'elles emploieraient auraient quelque chose 'd'illicite ou de

dangereux pour l'Etat;' l'exercice du droit d'association est réglé par la loi, 'en vue du maintien de la sécurité publique.'

Je viens donc appeler la sérieuse attention de mes honorables collègues sur l'existence, dans la Roumélie Orientale, de sociétés soi-disant 'Gymnastiques,' dont les membres, exclusivement de race Bulgare, pourvus d'armes et de munitions, non-seulement se rassemblent en plein air et s'exercent librement, mais portent aussi ces armes ordinairement en vaquant à leurs affaires journalières; et je considère de mon devoir de déclarer l'existence des susdites sociétés illicite, dangereuse pour la sécurité publique, et de nature à irriter les passions des différentes populations dont cette province est composée."

Le Baron de Ring dit que, tout en adhérant à la déclaration qui vient d'être faite, il tient à constater qu'aucun reproche ne saurait atteindre les membres des Sociétés de Gymnastique, qui croient évidemment, de bonne foi, se conformer aux intentions du Gouvernement Provincial en se livrant à des exercices militaires: "Ces sociétés," ajoute-t-il, "ont été dans le temps autorisées par le Général Stolipine; le Gouverneur-Général nouveau en arrivant au pouvoir ne les a pas dissoutes, et par conséquent leurs membres peuvent se considérer comme étant parfaitement en règle avec la légalité. Je tiens donc seulement à constater que l'existence de ces sociétés n'est pas garantie par le Statut Organique, et que dès lors l'autorité locale pourrait constitutionnellement les dissoudre le jour où elle le jugerait opportun."

Le Prince Tzeretelew est d'avis que la question soulevée par le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, si elle intéresse l'Administration Locale, ne saurait certes pas occuper la Commission. Il tient à constater d'ailleurs que jusqu'à présent les membres des Sociétés de Gymnastique n'ont donné lieu à aucune plainte et n'ont point fait un mauvais usage de leurs armes. Il admet du reste avec le Baron de Ring que l'existence de ces sociétés n'a rien d'illégal et dépend entièrement des autorités locales.

M. de Braunschweig n'était pas préparé à un débat sur les Sociétés de Gymnastique, mais il n'hésite pas à déclarer que le Statut n'a pas prévu une force armée existant à côté de la milice et de la gendarmerie. Il considère par conséquent que la question soulevée par le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne mérite d'attirer toute l'attention de l'Administration de la province.

M. Cingria ne juge pas que les Sociétés de Gymnastique soient "illicites" en elles-mêmes; mais il considère comme susceptible de devenir très-dangereuse pour l'ordre public une force armée disposant de 40,000 fusils, et dont les membres ne sont pas soumis aux lois et règlements militaires régissant la milice et la gendarmerie de la province.

Abro Effendi tient à déclarer que les Commissaires Ottomans adhèrent à la motion de Mr. Michell et considèrent les Sociétés de Gymnastique comme illicites et dangereuses pour l'ordre public. Il ne s'explique pas, d'ailleurs, pourquoi, quand une partie de la population Rouméliote est armée, on s'applique à désarmer l'autre.

Le Président constate qu'il est bien entendu que l'autorité provinciale sera en droit de prononcer le désarmement des Sociétés de Gymnastique quand elle le jugera utile.

Cette remarque ne soulève aucune objection de la part des membres de la réunion.

M. Vernoni pense que le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumelie Orientale devra être seul juge de l'opportunité d'une telle mesure.

Le Président constate ensuite que l'ordre du jour est épuisé: "Selon toute probabilité," ajoute-t-il, "il ne surgira pas d'ici à quelque temps de questions sur lesquelles nous ayions à nous prononcer d'urgence. J'invite en conséquence mes honorables collègues à se prononcer sur la question de savoir s'il ne serait pas avantageux de suspendre pour quelque temps les séances de la Commission."

Après un court échange d'idées, il est décidé, à l'unanimité, que la Commission suspende ses séances et qu'elle ne se réunira plus jusqu'à ce qu'elle soit convoquée en vertu d'un accord entre la Sublime Porte et les Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople.

M. de Braunschweig prie la Commission de voter des remerciements à MM. Rozet, Isvolsky, et Sélim Effendi pour le zèle infatigable et l'impartialité dont ils ont donné tant de preuves jusqu'à ce jour en remplissant les délicates fonctions qui leur sont confiées. Le Commissaire d'Allemagne désirerait aussi que l'Assemblée exprimât toute sa satisfaction à M. Curiel qui, à plusieurs reprises, a bien voulu remplacer MM. Isvolsky ou Sélim Effendi, et à M. Séon, chargé du compte-rendu des pétitions.

La Commission, à l'unanimité, vote des remerciements à MM. Rozet, Isvolsky, et Sélim Effendi, ainsi qu'à MM. Curiel et Séon.

La séance est levée à 7 heures du soir.

(Signé) RING.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
CINGARI.
MICHELL.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

No. 306.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 235. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 9, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a memorandum by Mr. Consul Calvert, reporting a conversation which he has had with two popular Mussulman leaders of this town, who came to consult me respecting the present position of the Turkish population of this province, and the means by which they would be prepared to defend themselves in the event of Bulgarian aggression, consequent on the approach of Turkish troops.

Several of my recent despatches will have shown your Lordship that I consider the Turks to be capable of any act of desperation.

Mr. Consul Calvert, who has earned the respect and gratitude of the Turkish population by his conduct dur[illegible] the late troubles, has great influence over it, and I trust that his advice, and that which I seize every opportunity of giving, will have the effect of keeping the Turks quiet for some time longer.

There will, however, necessarily be a limit to this endurance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 306.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

TWO of the leading Turks of this town, who have devoted much of their time and resources to relieving their destitute co-religionists, and who are thus placed in constant communication with the lower classes of their own community, called at the Consulate-General yesterday afternoon. In your absence I received them.

They began by announcing that, in a couple of hours, a deputation, consisting of representatives of the Mussulman population of Philippopoli, would arrive at the Consulate-General for the purpose of notifying to you that their community had determined to quit the country *en masse*. The Turks of Philippopoli, they said, had been driven to this course by the continued persecution to which they were subjected by the Bulgarian population and soldiery, and the impossibility of obtaining redress or even a hearing for their grievances. Moreover, since the Turkish Commissioners had ceased to supply the poor with bread rations, hundreds of Turks had been reduced to actual starvation. The whole Turkish community preferred to make an attempt to reach Constantinople rather than submit to such sufferings any longer. They would first apply to Aleko Pasha to give them a free passage on the railway, and, if he refused, they would set out on foot. They would die by the roadside rather than starve in the town, and remain exposed to the uncontrolled rancour of the Bulgarians.

So long as the Turkish Commissioners were among them they had preserved hopes of seeing an improvement in their treatment; but those hopes had vanished

with the departure of Assim Pasha and Abro Effendi. They imagined that they were to be now left entirely to their fate. Had they but known that Assim Pasha was to leave yesterday morning they would have gone to the railway station in a body and forcibly prevented his departure.

I endeavoured to pacify the excited feelings of the Turks by holding out to them hopes of a speedy improvement of their condition. I said it would be an unwise step for the Mussulmans of Eastern Roumelia to re-emigrate, and thus forfeit, very probably, their chance of being placed on a footing of perfect equality with their Bulgarian fellow subjects; that their wisest course would be to have patience for a short while longer, for they might believe, to a certainty, that Europe would not allow them to be oppressed for ever.

They seemed impressed by this assurance, and said that they would convey my advice to their community.

They then asked me whether the improvement I spoke of would be effected by the intervention of Turkish troops or otherwise. I said there was reason to hope that such intervention would not prove necessary; but that, in the contrary case, the Sultan would undoubtedly exercise his rights under the Treaty of Berlin.

They said that the Bulgarians seemed to anticipate that contingency, as they were threatening the Turks with extermination on the first attempt of Ottoman troops to enter the province.

I asked them whether they were afraid of the Bulgarians executing this threat, and whether they (the Turks) did not feel strong enough to defend themselves. They answered that the knowledge that Turkish troops were coming to their rescue would encourage them, unarmed as they were, to resist any aggression of the Bulgarians. They could even get the better of the Bulgarian gymnasts and militia quartered at Philippopoli, and said that, if need be, they were prepared to lose a couple of thousand men for that purpose. As for the Turks in the villages, they must shift for themselves. It had been arranged with them that on the first alarm of a Bulgarian attack they should flock into the large towns. Those who succeeded in reaching the towns would swell the numbers of the Turks prepared to offer resistance. Many of them, no doubt, would be killed on the way; but all the Turks in the province would prefer the chance, or even the certainty, of death to remaining at the mercy of the present Administration. The honour of their women, which they held as their dearest possession, was gone; their property was in the hands of the Bulgarians, and they were for the most part reduced to beggary. What was left to them but their lives, which they were all ready to risk in endeavouring to recover enough of what they had lost to make life bearable.

Had they but the assurance of help by Ottoman troops, they would rise against the Bulgarians at once. Let them, they said, have but one word from me to assure them that such assistance would be forthcoming and they would rise to-day. They had no arms, but they had confidence in their superior courage, heightened to recklessness by despair, and they would seize the arms stored in the arsenals of the Gymnastic Societies. They would fight the militia with clubs and axes, and they would seize the artillery. Their women and children would fight with the women and children of the Bulgarians.

I replied that I did not believe the Bulgarians would be foolish enough to attack the Mussulmans on the entry of Turkish troops, and that they must not treat seriously the threats of a few hot-headed Bulgarians. They must keep strictly on the defensive, for thus alone would they preserve the sympathies of Europe, which were already aroused in their behalf.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Philippopoli, September 7, 1879.

No. 307.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 236. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, September 9, 1879.

My Lord,

BARON DE RING has kindly communicated to me the inclosed copy of a letter, marked Private, which he yesterday addressed to the Secretary-General on the subject of the deplorable condition of the Turkish refugees at Philippopoli.

The French Commissioner describes the pitiful condition in which he found one of the refugee encampments, and advises the Secretary-General to visit the refugees

on their "dung-hill" himself, both in the name of humanity and in order to strengthen his hands against certain persons who are reckoning with too little reason on the "forbearance and fatigue of Europe," which M. de Ring points out in another part of his letter, will not allow the misgovernment of this province to surpass a certain limit.

This letter marks, in an unmistakable manner, both the alarm of the French Commissioner at the state of affairs in this province, and his conviction that the subordinate officials of the Local Administration are engaged in compelling the Turks to return from whence they came, in order that their Bulgarian fellow-citizens may finally possess themselves of their lands and houses.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 307.

Baron de Ring to M. Crestovitch.

(Particulière.)

M. le Secrétaire-Général, *Philippopoli, le* 8 *Septembre*, 1879.

J'AI visité cet après-midi, en compagnie de M. Michell, le campement de réfugiés Turcs qui se trouve établi dans les enclos à demi ruinés avoisinant l'ancien cimetière Musulman entre les collines à l'ouest de la ville. Le spectacle qui s'est offert là à nos yeux est navrant. Des quantités d'hommes, de femmes, d'enfants entassés pêle-mêle sous des abris insuffisants, sans moyens de couchage, sans couvertures capables de les préserver de l'air frais de la nuit, presque sans nourriture, attendant là qu'il plaise à Dieu et à l'Administration de leur pourvoir des facilités pour regagner leurs villages ou pour gagner leur vie à Philippopoli même. Pour beaucoup de ces malheureux, cette seconde alternative se présente même seule, attendu que dans les villages jadis occupés par eux leurs maisons sont rasées et que les autorités municipales, loin de faciliter leur réinstallation, ne se montrent préoccupées que d'une chose: les faire repartir au plus vite du pays, afin que les habitants Bulgares puissent plus aisément s'adjuger leurs terres. Je ne m'occupe cependant pas pour le moment de ce côté de la question; je n'examine pas comment l'autorité supérieure pourrait vaincre ces résistances locales; ce qui me porte à vous écrire, c'est l'état des réfugiés à Philippopoli même. Ici en effet personne ne s'occupe d'eux. Quand l'un ou l'autre de ces pauvres gens va au conak, il en est chassé; c'est du moins ce qu'ils déposent unanimement, et sur leur fumier (ce mot dans l'espèce peint strictement la réalité) sur leur fumier, dis-je, personne ne les visite. Pourtant je me suis laissé dire qu'il y avait ici une Municipalité, une Commission de rapatriement, voire même des médecins salariés par l'Administration. Véritablement on se demande comment ce monde-là est indifférent ou si peu au courant de telles misères. Pour ma part, Monsieur, je considère comme un devoir d'humanité de vous engager à aller voir de vos propres yeux dans quel état se trouve le campement des réfugiés Turcs, afin que vous puissiez, en connaissance personnelle de cause, rappeler les organes cités par moi tout à l'heure à leur devoir. Avant tout, envoyez les médecins sur les lieux, car il y a beaucoup de malades; envoyez des médecins, ne fût-ce que pour empêcher le typhus de se développer dans ce milieu immonde.

Loin de moi, Monsieur, la pensée de mêler dans cette lettre particulière la politique à la philanthropie. Néanmoins je ne saurais vous cacher ma conviction profonde que les hommes placés en ce moment à la tête de cette province seront d'une manière ou d'une autre, tôt ou tard rendus responsables de l'incurie scandaleuse de leurs sous ordres, et que les Gouvernements qui ont contribué à faire la Roumélie Orientale ne se paieront pas toujours de dénégations hardies ou d'affirmations optimistes, et que les fanfares littéraires que la "Maritza" a publiées à propos du rapatriement ne pourront pas se varier à l'infini. Il y a une mesure de mauvais gouvernement que les Puissances ne laisseront pas dépasser. Je suis persuadé, M. le Secrétaire-Général, que vous me saurez gré de cette affirmation qui vous prêtera de la force auprès de certaines personnes qui comptent, beaucoup plus que de raison, sur la longanimité ou sur la fatigue de l'Europe. Vous me rendrez d'ailleurs la justice que je n'ai importuné jusqu'ici ni vous, ni aucun de vos collègues, de mes conseils ou de mes réclamations. Je me suis strictement renfermé dans mes attributions officielles. Mais aujourd'hui je ne puis me taire. Ce que j'ai vu est par trop affreux.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) RING.

No. 308.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 238. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, September 10, 1879.

My Lord,

IT appears from the certified copy of an official letter in the Russian language which General Vitalis has placed in my hands, that, in order to encourage Russian officers to take service in the Bulgarian and Eastern Roumelian forces, the Imperial Government has undertaken to pay, during the period of such service, the annual contributions of those officers to the Military Superannuation Fund.

This arrangement amounts to a subvention, while it also implies that the officers in question retain their position in the Russian army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 309.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 240.)

Philippopoli, September 11, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of an order of the day published by General Strecker on the occasion of his assuming command of the local militia and gendarmerie.

The General points out that the tranquillity, prosperity, and entire future of the country are in the hands of those forces, and he appeals to all ranks to do their duty by "setting aside all thoughts that are alien to the service," and by maintaining the strictest discipline.

At the same time, he proclaims his intention of causing the law to be respected, and of maintaining a severe discipline.

Three days later, General Strecker issued the accompanying Circular to the Commanding Officers of the gendarmerie and militia.

It records the fact that the Prefects, "far from obtaining from the local forces the co-operation to which their high position and existing regulations give them a legitimate right, meet with an underhand opposition which is calculated to provoke serious embarrassments."

The Circular further states that, in the presence of such an antagonism, it is impossible to restore that tranquillity which the country so much requires; and urging that such a state of affairs cannot last, and that, on his part, he cannot tolerate it. The General calls upon the officers of the gendarmerie to study and observe the regulations that have reference to their relations with the Prefects. Lastly, he warns those officers that he will not hesitate to propose to the Governor-General the immediate dismissal of any member of the corps who, by his conduct or attitude, should appear to make sport of the regulations to the prejudice of the common weal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 309.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of September 10, 1879.

EN entrant dans ses fonctions de Commandant-en-chef de la milice et de la gendarmerie de la Roumélie Orientale, le Général Strecker a proclamé l'Ordre du Jour suivant :—

"Ordre du Jour.

"Mon bon camarade le Général Vitalis, après avoir organisé la milice et la gendarmerie, ayant été rappelé, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan a bien voulu me nommer son successeur.

"Officiers, Sous-Officiers, et soldats de la milice et de la gendarmerie !

"Le repos et la tranquillité du pays sont entre vos mains; il dépend de vous que ce pays éprouvé, s'enrichisse et devienne florissant; de votre conduite exemplaire dépend tout son avenir.

"Les efforts des autorités civiles restent infructueux si vous n'apportez pas votre concours avec dévouement.

"Je fais donc appel à votre patriotisme pour que vous fassiez votre devoir avec entière abnégation, devoir qui ne peut s'accomplir, qu'en laissant de coté toute pensée étrangère au service, et en travaillant sérieusement et en maintenant la discipline la plus stricte.

"Vous trouverez toujours en moi un ami soucieux de vos intérêts, attentif à tous vos besoins.

"Mais aussi un chef décidé à faire respecter la loi, et à maintenir une discipline sévère, sans laquelle la force armée n'a pas de valeur et devient même nuisible.

"Que Dieu nous aide à accomplir chacun nos devoirs.

"Fait à Phillippopoli, le 25 Août, 1879.

"Le Général Commandant la Milice et la Gendarmerie
de la Roumélie Orientale,
(Signé) "STRECKER.

"Pour copie conforme :
"Le Sous-Lieutenant,
(Signé) "LOUKOFF."

Inclosure 2 in No. 309.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of September 10, 1879.

Circulaire.

A MM. les Commandants de la Gendarmerie et les Commandants des Droujines.

J'APPRENDS chaque jour que des tiraillements ont lieu entre les officiers de la gendarmerie, les officiers de la milice, et les hauts fonctionnaires de l'Administration Civile, MM. les Préfets.

Ces derniers, loin de trouver chez les dépositaires de la force armée le concours auquel leur haute situation et les Règlements leur donnent un droit légitime, rencontrent une opposition sourde et de nature à provoquer de sérieux embarras.

Un pareil état de choses ne peut durer et je ne saurais, du reste, le tolérer.

Il est impossible en effet, qu'en présence d'un pareil antagonisme le pays retrouve la tranquillité dont il a soif, et qu'il est en droit d'exiger de ceux qui sont commis à sa sécurité.

J'ai adressé, ces jours derniers, à MM. les officiers de la gendarmerie, la traduction de certains passages du Règlement de leur corps, lesquels ont trait aux rapports existant entre eux et les Préfets.

Je les engage à les méditer, à s'y conformer, strictement et à ne pas perdre de vue que les moindres plaintes qui me parviendront, m'obligeront à sévir avec la plus grande énergie. Je n'hésiterai pas, un seul instant, à proposer à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de rayer immédiatement tout membre du corps de la gendarmerie qui par sa conduite, son attitude, semblerait se faire un jeu des Règlements et entraverait ainsi la marche régulière de la chose publique.

Je vous prie de donner communication de cette Circulaire aux agents placés sous vos ordres et m'en accuser réception.

Fait à Philippopoli, le 28 Août, 1879.

Le Général de la Milice et de la Gendarmerie,
(Signé) STRECKER.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Chef d'Etat-Major,
BARON DE TOUSTAIN.

No. 310.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 243.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 12, 1879.

THE inclosed copy of a petition addressed to the European Commission shows that Bulgarian as well as Turkish refugees have cause of complaint against the Local Government, which is placing obstacles in the way of the return of the Bulgarian families which had been enticed during the Russian occupation to emigrate from the Vilayet of Adrianople into this province.

There are said to be 15,000 Bulgarians of this class anxious to return to their original homes.

A few hundred have, I believe, been allowed to depart on giving bonds for the repayment of the value of the corn, &c., issued to them by the Russian authorities, but that permission is now being withheld, and a report has reached me to the effect that the refugees in question are being detained at Philippopoli in order to swell the lists of Bulgarian electors, in violation of the Statute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 310.

Petition.

(Traduction du Turc.)

A la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale.

NOUS, Soussignés, habitants Chrétiens du village Azgharli, district de Malgara, du Vilayet d'Adrinople, avons l'honneur d'exposer ce qui suit :—

Lors de l'occupation de Philippopoli par l'armée Russe, nous avons été requis par des religieux Bulgares de nous rendre dans ce caza, sous la promesse que nous y trouverions des terres, des bestiaux, des maisons, ainsi que des céréales pour notre nourriture. Nous étions en tout 31 familles, comprenant 168 personnes; 22 familles d'entre nous ont été installées dans des maisons Turques du village Doghandji, 7 familles ont été envoyées au village Sikian et installées également dans des maisons de Musulmans, et les 2 autres sont restées à Philippopoli.

On nous a donné alors pour notre nourriture 280 kilés de blé qui ont servi à nous faire vivre jusqu'à ce jour.

Cependant, comme on envoie aujourd'hui les émigrés Chrétiens dans leur pays, nous voulons également nous rendre dans le nôtre. Mais les autorités locales y mettent pour condition la restitution des céréales qu'on nous avait données lors de notre arrivée, faute de quoi elles refusent de nous laisser partir. Pareille condition n'avait pas été mise jusqu'à présent pour ceux de nos compatriotes qui sont allés déjà rejoindre leurs foyers. Toutefois, s'il a été reconnu juste d'obtenir cette restitution, nous sommes prêts à nous en reconnaître débiteurs pour rendre ce que nous devons sur nos récoltes de l'année prochaine, pour qu'on nous laisse partir pour notre village.

(Suivent 34 signatures.)

No. 311.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 244.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 12, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the translation of a Report on the condition of the Turkish population of the department of Haskeui, drawn up by Mr. Calvert's Dragoman.

It shows that the Turks of that department are treated with the same violence and injustice as in the departments under my more immediate observation.

The petition presented by those unfortunate people to Aleko Pasha, and of which a copy is attached to the Dragoman's Report, has not resulted in any amelioration of

their condition. One of the deputies who presented it to the Governor-General was imprisoned on his return from Philippopoli by the Prefect of Haskeui, and only released, after a confinement of ten days, on giving security for his good behaviour.

I may add that I have this day had an opportunity of satisfying myself of the correctness of the description given in the above Report and petition of the condition of the Mussulman population in the department of Haskeui.

In a letter addressed to the Governor-General by the Prefect of that department, the latter states that assassinations and other disorders occur in his district, and that he will not be able to restore order and tranquillity unless he is empowered "to prevent civilians from carrying arms."

This letter having been referred to the Commander of the militia and gendarmerie, the latter has this day represented to the Governor-General, in writing, that it is for his Excellency to take into consideration the necessity of disarming the Gymnastic Society to which the Prefect refers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 311.

M. Yovanovich to Mr. Michell.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Philippopoli, September* , 1879.

IN obedience to your orders, I went to Haskeui to inquire into the state of affairs there and report to you.

A Turk of the village of Ghedikli had hired himself as a labourer to a Bulgarian of Yeni-Mahallé, Garvan. These two villages are at a distance of about one and a-half hour from Haskeui. The employer of the Turk had allowed him to sow one "douloum" of land for his (the Turk's) own account. The other day, being Sunday, and the Bulgarians not working, the Turk obtained leave of his employer to go and gather his maize. He took an ox-cart and went to the field, and filled the cart with maize, and brought it to his village (Ghedikli), and he left the maize there, and returned to gather a second cart-load; but the next day his body was found in the field with the head cut off, and the oxen yoked to the cart; and the authorities caused the two rural guards to be brought from there before them; but the Mukhtar and other Turks of Ghedikli said: "We have no suspicion against the rural guards, nor against the Bulgarian villagers."

In the town of Haskeui the market-day used to be Wednesday, but now they have altered it to Saturday, in order that the Jews may not buy or sell.

The village of Moussatly is distant two and a-half hours from Haskeui. It is inhabited by Turks and Christians. About one month ago a Turk, named Deli Ahmet, of Haskeui, was on his way to Hermanly with letters for the refugees there. In the evening he stopped at that village (Moussatly) in order to sleep there. There was a zaptieh in the village who beat him soundly; and since that night the Turk has not been seen or heard of.

From the village of Sinekly, thirty days ago, there started six gypsies, with their children, going to Haskeui. They disappeared in the neighbourhood of Tchamourly. Two of their relatives went to the authorities and asked for zaptiehs to come with them and seek the lost men. Two zaptiehs were given to them. Now, near the village of Tchamourly, there is a valley and a lake. They found there the body of one of the gypsies, and the birds of prey were feasting on it, for the water was dried up; and so they returned to Haskeui; and they imprisoned the two surviving gypsies, saying that it was they who had killed the others; and that night the body disappeared from the bed of the lake where it had lain.

About twenty days ago two Turks set out from Ussüsskeui, which is one hour from Haskeui, for the market in the latter town. Afterwards they were both found murdered at a spot between Kümürdjikeui and Ussüsskeui. One of them had ridden on a horse and the other on a donkey. The horse had been taken; but the donkey was found tied near to their bodies. The authorities have done nothing in the matter.

From Ouzoundjova, about ten days ago, Boghdanoglen (a Bulgarian Tchorbadji) came to Haskeui, and asked two Turks to come with him to Ouzoundjova; for they owned an inn there, which had been destroyed, and he wanted to buy the stones. One of the Turks was from the village of Beyinlarly, and his name is Kara Mehmet;

the other from the village of Seïdheyli, and son of Bekir Agha. He (Boghdanoglen) took them in the night to his house; he bound them, and took them to the Maritsa in order to kill them. Now, it was very dark, and he fired his gun at them, but did not hit them. One of the Turks broke his bonds and fled; but the elder of them remained, and Boghdanoglen, fearing that the other would go and inform the authorities, took the remaining Turk to the railway station and gave him up to the police, saying that he had found him without a passport.

The Bulgarians who have reaped Turkish corn-fields have not given to any of the owners even one schnik (one-fifth of a bushel) of grain.

At Haskeuï, on the 7th of this month, three soldiers were beating a Turk of the village of Idéhékeuï, in order to take possession of his cart. One Hadji Ghiomer, a Bulgarian, and member of the Council, took compassion on him, and he said to the soldiers, "Are you not ashamed to beat this man?" But they answered him by abusing his religion and his wife.

Two days ago a yuzbashi and three zaptiehs went to the house of one Mehremoglou Sadoullah, wishing to hire it, and, as the said Sadoullah was not at home, they forced their way into the house and frightened the women. Seeing the women in a state of terror on his return home, Sadoullah went out to fetch some medicines for them. On the way a Bulgarian asked him whither he was going. He said, "I am going to fetch some medicine; I know not what pezeveuk has broken into my house and frightened the women." Then the Bulgarian went and said to the Governor that Sadoullah had abused the Bulgarians, and Sadoullah was imprisoned for one night without trial. About twenty days before his farmhouse at Ghedikli had been burnt to the ground.

At Haskeuï the townspeople have received strict orders to drill twice a week—on Sundays and Wednesdays—and they have cavalry, about seventy or eighty men, who are also drilled.

I have brought you a petition which was sent to the Governor-General by the Turkish inhabitants of Haskeuï at the beginning of August (old style). One of the deputies, who presented the petition to Aleko Pasha, was arrested by the Prefect on his return from Haskeuï.

(Signed) JOANNIS ZAPHIRIDES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 311.

Petition addressed to the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia by the Moslem Population of Haskeuï.

(Translation.)

UN grand nombre de nos nationaux étant en prison depuis plusieurs mois, sans qu'ils soient traduits devant un Tribunal quelconque, ceux qui se présentent aux autorités locales pour demander la cause de leur imprisonnement sont maltraités de telle sorte que personne n'ose plus aller s'informer de l'état des emprisonnés.

Des garçons Bulgares ayant fendu avec une pierre la tête du fils du nommé Arnavoud Idriss, habitant de notre ville, lorsque celui-ci s'est présenté aux autorités pour leur porter plainte, il a été battu et emprisonné.

Ali Bey, fils de Feyouz Aga, un de nos Notables, s'était adressé à la Municipalité de Haskeuï dans le but de demander un permis pour la réparation d'un mur et en présence du Président et des membres avait payé le montant du dit permis. Ceux-ci sans lui remettre ce jour, lû le permis, l'avaient toutefois autorisé à commencer le lendemain ses réparations en lui promettant d'envoyer un fonctionnaire pour mesurer la rue. Le fonctionnaire arrive et démarque les points d'où le mur devait être reconstruit, mais lorsque, conformément à l'autorisation de la Municipalité, Ali Bey a fait commencer la démolition de son mur, un gendarme se présente et l'invite à aller trouver le Préfet de Police Iovantcho. Celui-ci lui demande alors son permis, et lorsqu'Ali Bey lui explique les circonstances ci-haut décrites, il se met à le battre impitoyablement pour avoir employé, en s'exprimant, le mot "Kouzoum" (mon cher—littéralement, "mon agneau") à son adresse, comme si ce mot avait été une expression insultante. Le dit Iovantcho fait appeler souvent des femmes Turques à la police et sans qu'il y ait de faute à leur reprocher, il les maltraite et les injurie. Il a impitoyablement battu et emprisonné il y a quinze jours le nommé Mestan Aga, sans qu'on sache pourquoi et qu'il y ait un arrêt contre lui.

Des officiers et des soldats Bulgares détachent et emportent des portes et des planches partout où ils en trouvent; lorsqu'on leur demande le motif qui les fait agir ainsi, ils répondent que c'est pour se construire des lits et que c'est Iovantcho, le Préfet de Police, qui leur a dit de faire ainsi.

Quand des soldats Musulmans licenciés, originaires de Haskeuï, arrivent à la station de Hayadjik, ils y sont tenus emprisonnés pendant plusieurs jours et amenés à Haskeuï, ils sont encore mis en prison indéfiniment. De même des réfugiés Musulmans arrivent à la station de Hayadjik, sont fouillés outrageusement, hommes et femmes, de la part d'une dizaine d'individus, et aussi minutieusement que s'ils cherchaient une aiguille. En cas qu'ils trouvent sur eux le moindre instrument tranchant, ils sont alors traités comme s'ils étaient des assassins, battus et emprisonnés indéfiniment. Iovantcho, le Préfet de Police en question, pénètre, accompagné d'un certain nombre de gendarmes, dans la première maison venue, sans s'inquiéter le moins du monde des lois qui garantissent l'inviolabilité du domicile et il n'y a de mauvais traitement qu'il ne commette, de sorte que nous ne pouvons plus avoir aucune confiance sur lui, et nous supplions votre Excellence de daigner ordonner à son égard ce que de droit.

Il y a quinze jours, un Bulgare ayant été trouvé mort du côté du village dit "Tchamourli," tous les Musulmans des villages environnants ont été mis sous arrêt. Une semaine plus tard six Tziganes, dont deux hommes, deux femmes, et deux enfants ont disparus comme ils se rendaient à Haskeuï; malgré les instances des parents de ces individus, les autorités n'ont rien fait pour les découvrir. Quelques jours après le cadavre de l'un d'eux a été trouvé dans la boue; les autres ne sont pas encore trouvés, mais ce qui est surprenant, c'est que tous leurs parents ont été jetés en prison, pour qu'ils ne s'adressent pas apparemment au Gouvernement Central de Philippopoli.

Depuis que nos réfugiés ont commencé à rejoindre leurs foyers on a démoli trois à quatre cents maisons Musulmanes. Les soldats Bulgares qui se trouvent dans le cassaba et dans les villages des environs, non-seulement battent et injurient les Musulmans qu'ils rencontrent, mais encore volent leurs montres et leur argent, et lorsqu'il en est porté plainte aux autorités locales, elles n'y ajoutent aucune créance, de sorte que les Musulmans ne savent plus comment sortir dans la rue pour ne pas encourir les vexations des Bulgares.

Ceux qui viennent du caza de Kirdjali à Haskeuï et ceux qui vont de Haskeuï au dit caza sont exposés en route aux harcellements des Bulgares. Rencontrent-ils un de ceux-ci en chemin, le Bulgare oblige le Musulman de le prendre sur son dos et de lui faire traverser ainsi les ravins et les cours d'eau. Comme ils sont tous armés de pied à cap, ils se croient maîtres de faire endurer ce qui leur plaît.

Dans le but de présenter à votre Excellence le vœu que nous formions de voir nommer un de nos nationaux comme Conseiller du Préfet de Haskeuï, nous avons choisi trois délégués parmi nous, les nommés Mustapha Effendi, Saïd Aga, et Mehmed Effendi, et nous les avons chargés de soumettre à votre Excellence notre vœu. Nous approuvons d'avance tout ce qu'ils auront dit à votre Excellence de notre part.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Haskeuï, le Juillet, 1879.

No. 312.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 245.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 12, 1879.

THE Bulgarian Metropolitan, Panarétos, sent me yesterday his photograph, with an inscription expressing his "fatherly esteem," and soon after came to the Consulate-General himself, with the object of talking over the state of affairs in this province.

His language, as well as his visit, betrayed the apprehensions of the wily ecclesiastic, to whom has hitherto been attributed the principal direction of the Pan-Bulgarian movement.

During the course of a long conversation, his Eminence acknowledged that the state of affairs was very serious, and attributed that result to the weakness of the Administration, both central and provincial. In the case of Tatar-Bazardjik, he said, the Prefect was entirely to blame. Although a man of moderate views, he had no strength of character and no energy, and allowed others to do exactly as they chose.

The Metropolitan confirmed what I had learnt in that town, namely, that the

Department was, in reality, governed by two or three members of the Gymnastic Society.

I told him that, according to my information, all the other Prefects and principal functionaries were in the same position, namely, that they were either directly connected with the "National Committee," or allowed themselves to be led by the representatives of that organization. The consequence was, that the entire administration of the province was in the hands of an occult Administration, whose present object appeared to be the extermination of the Turkish population.

The Metropolitan was apparently sincere in his regret at the manner in which the refugees were being treated, and referred me to the pastoral letter which he had a few days ago addressed to the Bulgarian clergy as a proof of the alarm which he felt and of his indignation as a Christian prelate.

I have the honour to inclose an extract from that letter, published this day in the Radical Bulgarian organ, together with a leading article commenting upon the relations between the Bulgarian and Turkish population of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 313.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 248. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 13, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 247 of this date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Schmidt has shown me the draft of a Declaration which he intends to make at the next meeting of the Council on the subject of the holidays which the Governor-General has ordered to be kept in this province.

The Director of Finance points out that the Decree in question was discussed by the Privy Council during his absence, and that he had been induced to believe that the intention of promulgating it without further consideration had for that reason been abandoned.

He insists that the rights of the Mahommedan population, as defined by the Organic Statute, have not been sufficiently taken into consideration, as the Christian fêtes preponderate very much in number over the Mahommedan fêtes which the Decree merely tolerates.

The Declaration further points out that the number of Christian holidays might, at all events, have been diminished by one of the "political" fêtes, namely, that of the Governor-General's name-day, there being no precedent for the popular celebration of the name-day of a person who is not a crowned head; for, although Aleko Pasha had on one occasion maintained at a Privy Council that Eastern Roumelia was "a vassal and tributary State," yet his true position was only that of a Governor-General of an Ottoman autonomous province.

Lastly, M. Schmidt protests against the celebration of Aleko Pasha's birthday, as a subterfuge for the organization of a demonstration in honour of a foreign Sovereign, to whom it is thereby intended to accord greater respect and popularity than to the territorial Sovereign, the Sultan of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 314.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 249.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 13, 1879.

THREE Greek Representatives of the Canton of Kavakly, in the Department of Bourgas, have this day presented to Baron de Ring, as Temporary President of the European Commission, a petition, of which I have the honour to inclose a duplicate.

It shows that the Greek population of this province is suffering as much injustice as the Turks at the hands of the new Bulgarian officials of every class.

I may take this opportunity of reporting to your Lordship that the Greek

Notables of Philippopoli have presented an address to the French Commissioner, thanking him and the French nation for the defence of their rights, and praying that the French Government will continue to give its support to the severely tried Greek population of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 314.

Petition by Greeks of Cavacly.

Excellence,

DEPUIS l'installation des autorités actuelles dans notre canton, au lieu de trouver un repos et une sûreté, nous essuyons toutes sortes de mauvais traitements de la part des employés qui tâchent de réinstaller la tyrannie et de nous rendre leurs tributaires et non pas ceux de la loi, et ils tâchent de nous aliéner de la langue et des priviléges que le Statut Organique même nous a octroyé. Ne pouvant plus supporter les violations et le despotisme qu'ils exercent sur nous, nous venons respectueusement soumettre à votre Excellence nos justes plaintes qui suivent, et que nous vous prions de prendre en considération, et de bien vouloir nous sauver de ces employés et nommer d'autres qui respectent les lois et nos droits.

Le Percepteur du Canton Kouzouvaroff d'abord, après avoir tâché par moyen et machinations sans égal de nous jeter dans un piége pour nous démontrer des abuseurs, profitant de notre ignorance et de la naïveté de nos villageois, il eut en suite recours à abuser du village Sinapli, uni à notre Canton, 75 livres, qu'il a soustrait par la machination suivante :—

Aussitôt qu'il arriva au dit village il donna l'ordre à ses gardiens de se mettre à énumérer les gerbes qui, prédisposés par lui, divisaient une gerbe en deux ou trois afin de parvenir à démontrer les Sinapliotes comme des abuseurs; l'énumération faite, ils trouvèrent environ 140 gerbes de plus; alors il les menaça qu'il allait les dénoncer, et qu'ils seraient grandement amendés; mais s'ils consentaient à lui donner 75 livres il pourrait modérer leur soi-disant abus. Les villageois intimidés de poursuites injustes consentirent à lui compter les dites 75 livres. Quelques jours après, les villageois ayant indirectement dénoncé le fait aux autorités compétentes, un examinateur fut envoyé de Slivno pour constater l'affaire. Kouzouvaroff, qui fut préalablement averti, envoie le douanier pour les disposer à ne rien déclarer, en les menaçant que s'ils lui faisaient la sourde oreille et déclareraient la moindre chose, ils seraient punis. Mais ceux-ci n'hésitèrent pas de faire contre lui une déposition écrite en langue Grecque et signée par les Sinapliotes mêmes et par laquelle ils avouèrent toute la vérité; mais après le départ du Juge Instructeur, qui emporta avec lui notre susdite confession, Kouzouvaroff usa de la ruse qui est contenue dans tous ses détails dans la protestation ci-annexée. Avant le fait mentionné un autre arriva au village Miero Monastéri: trois employés de M. Kouzouvaroff abusèrent 45 roubles pour les mêmes raisons que leur chef. Le Préfet de notre département ayant été averti de ce fait, invita toutes les deux parties et prit déposition par écrit des villageois, que soussigna Kouzouvaroff même qui assistait à l'examen. Pour éviter un long exposé et par manque de preuves nous passons sous silence bien d'autres abus faits tant par lui que par ses employés, dont un, son sécretaire, refusa, nous ne savons pas pour quelle cause, de prendre en main un papier écrit en langue Grecque.

Le Douanier Ghiasuroff, contrairement aux dispositions de la Loi Organique, d'après laquelle, il n'y a pas de douane entre la Roumélie Orientale et les autres provinces de la Turquie pour toutes les marchandises transportées d'Andrinople dans notre canton, c'est-à-dire de spiritueux et de charpente, il lève de nouveaux impôts, et quand même les hommes lui présentent leurs teskérés en règle.

Le Tribunal, malheureusement, est composé par des gens pleins de défauts; tous les membres sont Bulgares, aucun Grec. Le Juge avant tout, outre son incapacité, a aussi le honteux vice de l'ivrognerie, et il est disposé hostilement contre nous, les Grecs. Il refuse d'accepter les pétitions qui s'adressent à lui en langue Grecque; il impose aux parties intéressées de ne pas exposer de la manière qu'ils savent leurs affaires, mais il exige que la pétition soit faite comme il la veut lui-même. Les pétitions s'écrivent par un de ses favoris. Par une Proclamation il publie que celui qui fait des pétitions doit prendre 4 à 5 piastres osant le but de mettre un obstacle à ceux qui peuvent exposer clairement l'affaire qui leur serait confiée, et menace d'une amende de 5 à 15 roubles tous ceux qui refuseraient de se conformer à son ordre.

A l'élection des Assesseurs de Tribunaux ils invitèrent de chaque village de la circonscription deux électeurs, sans prendre en considération la population des villages. Ainsi Cavacly, composé de 1,500 familles environ, a été égal à Yénikioi, qui à peine contient 50 familles; de sorte que le Juge étant d'une qualité pareille et Bulgare, tous les Assesseurs aussi, à l'exception d'un Grec, furent choisis parmi les Bulgares.

La gendarmerie est aussi composée des Bulgares envoyés de Slivno (quoique plusieurs des nôtres avaient demandé de s'enrôler, ayant l'intérêt commun de garder leur patrie et leurs familles, néanmoins ils furent exclus de ce droit), et on a nommé sur eux un officier Bulgare.

Vers le 7 Août du courant un officier de la gendarmerie de Slivno étant venu de Slivno avec deux autres (dont l'un est connu par ses crimes constatés), pour jeter la terreur et mépriser les Grecs, se rendit à Caryas sans paraître devant le Sous-Préfet, et après avoir bu et devenus souls ils battirent affreusement tous ceux qui se trouvaient dans le cabaret, et en sortant de là ils fouettaient tous ceux qu'ils rencontraient dans les rues. Ensuite ils entrèrent dans l'Ecole où étaient réunis tous les Notables pour leurs affaires, et ayant forcé et cassé la porte, les élèves prirent la fuite, et dispersèrent l'épouvante à tel point que, femmes, vieillards, et enfants sortirent hors du village et cherchaient un abri.

Le Sous-Préfet de Cavacly en ayant été averti expédia des gendarmes pour arrêter les perturbateurs qu'ils rencontrèrent dans la rue (à l'exception de l'officier qui se trouvait encore à Caryas); mais au lieu d'obéir aux gendarmes envoyés ils leurs opposèrent les armes, et en insultant grossièrement le Sous-Préfet, forcèrent les gendarmes à les arrêter par force et le conduire devant le Sous-Préfet qui, les ayant vu en état d'ivresse, pour éviter les conséquences funestes, ordonna qu'ils fussent mis en prison.

Mais leur commandant, arrivé à Cavacly et informé du sort de ses attachés, se présente au Sous-Préfet, et en le menaçant grossièrement il partit. Le Sous-Préfet procéda à l'examen régulier qui fut soussigné par les agressés, et annexé au procès-verbal avec la pétition des villageois, il les renvoya au Préfet. Quelques jours après le fait furent venus à Caryas, comme examinateurs, les Sous-Préfets de Yamboli et de Kezil-Agatz avec le Juge, qui firent assermenter les paysans et prirent leur déposition écrite en Grec; mais comme ils ne la trouvèrent conforme à leurs vœux, convainquirent les paysans de signer à une copie écrite en Bulgare par les mêmes Juges sous le prétexte qu'ils la présenteront aux autorités compétentes pour donner satisfaction aux maltraités, et ils les rassurent que c'était tout-à-fait conforme au texte Grec. Cependant, malgré tout cela, au lieu de voir les perturbateurs punis et les victimes satisfaites, nous voyons un écrit adressé par le Préfet au Sous-Préfet condamnant les Caryotes à l'amende de 25 pols Impériaux, qu'ils payèrent immédiatement par la crainte du plus pire, le domestique du Sous-Préfet à l'exil comme ayant aidé à l'arrestation, et le Sous-Préfet le menace qu'il serait traduit par devant l'interrogatoire si une autre fois il aurait agi de la sorte, et pour avoir puni le Moukhtar Bulgare de Vacouf pour un abus de 5 roubles.

Dimanche passé les habitants des villages Bulgares: Vakouf, Yénikioi, Scoutzak, Dribdjevo, Ménétza, et Derviche-Tépé, ayant pris avec eux un prêtre Bulgare, se rendirent au Couvent de la Sainte Trinité, et arbitrairement ils tâchèrent de l'y installer à la place du Grec qui y existe depuis sa fondation; et ils avaient l'intention de procéder à cela même par force s'ils avaient trouvé une opposition de la part des Grecs.

Ayant compris cela nous avons usé de la ruse, et nous avons demandé un délai de onze jours pour qu'il n'arrive pas quelque malheur, et pour avoir le temps de porter nos plaintes à qui de droit, convaincus de nos droits incontestables sur cet établissement sacré.

Voilà en abrégé notre situation, dont nous réclamons l'amélioration, ayant la base que nous ne demandons pas une grâce, mais la justice basée sur la loi, et que l'impartialité et la justesse de votre Excellence se contribueront à nous sauver des vexations qui nous sont infligées par les employés qui occupent indignement les fonctions publiques à cause desquels les peuples souffrent indignement, et leurs Gouvernements se critiquent injustement parce qu'ils ne savent pas les injustices et les abus commis par de pareilles fonctionnaires.

Dans l'espoir que nos justes et humbles réclamations seront prises en considération bienveillante, nous avons, &c.

Les Représentants du Canton Cavacly,
(Suivent les signatures.)

Cavacly, le $\frac{2}{14}$ Septembre, 1879.

No. 315.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 251.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 13, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith the translation of a petition which has been transmitted to the Ottoman Prime Minister on the part of the inhabitants of Tatar-Bazardjik, who complain of the manner in which they are being treated by their Bulgarian fellow-citizens, as well as by the local and central Administrations.

The second petition, of which I also inclose a translation, and which is addressed to Her Majesty's Consulate-General, relates to the imprisonment of a Mussulman who headed a large deputation of Turkish women, by whom a petition was presented to General Vitalis at the railway station, on the occasion of his departure, praying him to obtain the Sultan's interference on their behalf.

I have sent the original petition unofficially to the Governor-General, with the expression of a hope that he will at once release the prisoner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 315.

Petition by Turks complaining of ill-treatment at Tatar-Bazardjik.

(Traduction du Turc.)

A son Altesse le Premier Ministre de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Altesse,

LES Soussignés, habitants de Tatar-Bazardjik, ont l'honneur d'exposer à votre Altesse ce qui suit:—

Depuis l'année dernière jusqu'à ces derniers jours, les incendies et les démolitions, provoqués pas nos compatriotes Bulgares, continuent à ravager les quartiers Musulmans de notre ville, de même que les villages Musulmans du district de Tatar-Bazardjik. C'est ainsi que les réfugiés, nos nationaux, qui, en vertu de l'Iradé Impérial constatant le rétablissement de l'ordre en Roumélie Orientale et confirmant les garanties dont un accord intervenu entre les Puissances entoure les biens et la vie de tous les habitants de cette province, arrivent pour rejoindre leurs foyers, ne trouvent que des cendres, et sont exposés aux souffrances et aux privations les plus rigoureuses. D'autre part, les autorités locales n'ayant pris nullement en considération les requêtes que nous avons eu à leur présenter à plusieurs reprises, aussi bien pour les supplier de faire cesser les méfaits signalés ci-dessus que pour leur demander de faire évacuer les maisons Musulmanes occupés par les Bulgares, nos nationaux sont condamnés à périr inévitablement, abandonnés comme ils le sont sans abri, sans ressources, et sans protection aucune. De plus, les autorités ne font pas rentrer nos réfugiés en possession de leurs biens immeubles, de sorte qu'ils ne peuvent recevoir aucun loyer, comme ils ne peuvent parvenir à se faire donner aucune portion des productions de leurs terres que les Bulgares ont labourés. Les jugements pour dettes obtenues par des Musulmans contre des Bulgares ne sont point exécutés, tandis qu'il suffit qu'un Bulgare dise qu'il a à recevoir d'un Musulman pour que la terre de celui-ci soit vite vendue à vil prix pour satisfaire aux exigences du Bulgare.

Tels sont les faits pour lesquels nous nous sommes adressés tant de fois aux autorités locales de Bazardjik, aussi bien qu'aux autorités centrales de Philippopoli sans être assez heureux pour obtenir un résultat satisfaisant.

Nous venons donc par la présente supplier humblement votre Altesse de daigner faire en sorte que nos réfugiés soient rentrés en possession de leurs biens immeubles, de même que du loyer et d'une partie des productions de ces biens, et qu'on cesse de commettre sur eux les méfaits dont ils souffrent tant.

(Suivent 76 cachets.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 315.

Petition by Turks demanding the release of a Mussulman imprisoned by the Authorities.

(Traduction du Turc.)

Au Consulat-Général Britannique à Philippopoli.

LES réfugiés de Philippopoli se sont trouvés plusieurs fois dans le cas de présenter des requêtes pour exposer la situation malheureuse qui leur est faite, étant sans abri et sans nourriture; c'est ainsi qu'ils ont réunis hier une requête à Vitalis Pacha, Commandant de la Milice, pour attirer l'attention des autorités sur leur sort.

Cependant l'un de nos coreligionnaires a été emprisonné de ce fait. Nous nous permettons de demander l'élargissement de cet individu.

(Suivent 10 cachets.)

Le 30 Août, 1879.

No. 316.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 252.) *Philippopoli, September* 13, 1879.

My Lord,

THE alarm caused by the complaints of the Turkish refugees has caused the Governor-General's Council to take their condition into serious consideration.

Considerable light has been thrown on some of the causes that have produced that condition, by the fact that the Council found it necessary two days ago to repeal the regulations that have hitherto been applied to the repatriation of refugees, and to enact:—

1. That in future claims made by Bulgarian occupants of Turkish houses for the value of repairs and improvements shall not prevent the original owners from entering into immediate possession. Such repairs, &c., are to be valued by the Cantonal Judge, and the Bulgarian occupant is to be indemnified out of rents collected by the Local Administration for the account of the refugees; or, in the absence of insufficiency of such a fund, the Provincial Government is to indemnify the occupant under a mortgage on the land; and,

2. Refugees are no longer to be called upon to prove their titles to the lands which they come to claim, but are merely to prove that they held them before the late troubles; while persons disputing such rights must prosecute their claims at law.

It is evident that the previous regulations of an opposite tendency must have greatly contributed to the reluctance of the Bulgarians to part with the cottages and lands of Turkish refugees.

At the same time, the discretion which is left to the Cantonal Judges (who are nearly all Bulgarians) in respect to the valuation of repairs may, if uncontrolled, have the effect of burdening Turkish real property with an amount of debt which will practically transfer that property to the State, and facilitate the subsequent extermination of a certain proportion of the Turkish peasantry.

I have directed the attention of M. Schmidt to this point, and he has acknowledged that, open as the new Regulations are to criticism, they constitute a concession which he had some difficulty in obtaining from the Bulgarian members of the Council.

I have also had much conversation with the Director of Finance on the subject of raising a sum of 300,000*l.* or 400,000*l.* for the repatriation and settlement of the refugees. He suggests the formation of a Company for that purpose, and thinks the enterprize might be rendered safe and profitable if the province were to guarantee the repayment of a loan on the security of mortgages effected on the real property, in respect to which advances would be made, and also on the collateral security of the revenue from the sale of stamps on manufactured tobacco, valued at £T. 40,000.

Much, however, as I should desire to see the realization of such an enterprize, provided proper precautions be taken to prevent the mortgaged Turkish lands from falling more or less arbitrarily into the hands of the Provincial Government, I doubt whether any capitalists will be found bold enough to enter into financial arrangements with an Administration of which the shortcomings and precariousness must soon become notorious, and I have not failed to use this argument in exemplification of the

necessity of practically proving to Europe the capacity, loyalty, and impartiality of the Provincial Government.

It is, however, clear that, unless a large sum of money be raised, by some means or other, for the purpose of establishing both the Turkish refugees and the Bulgarian peasants who have hitherto occupied Turkish houses, distress and even famine must inevitably be the result of the return of a large number of refugees to this province.

A vigorous and well-intentioned Administration might, in the meantime, prevent the further destruction of Turkish property, and even impose contributions on towns and villages in which such property has purposely been destroyed since, or even during, the Russian occupation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 317.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 254. Confidential.) *Philippopoli, September* 13, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday's date (No. 82), I beg to inform your Lordship that at the interview therein mentioned Aleko Pasha professed an unusual amount of zeal in the Ottoman interest, and even went to the extent of telling me, "regardless of his fear of Blue Books," that he was powerless to establish order and good government in this province unless Europe showed a determination to support him against Russia.

He said that he had no confidence in the Porte, and asked me whether I was really not aware that the Turkish Ministers were in league with Russia?

I replied that I was not aware of anything of the kind, and that, on the contrary, I had reason to know that the Porte, as well as other Governments, were alarmed at the condition of the province, under the misrule of which the seeds had been sown by Russian military commanders.

For the first time he openly acknowledged to me that the principal cause of the present state of affairs in Eastern Roumelia was the existence of the Gymnastic Societies, to which I had frequently drawn his attention, representing, as they ostensibly do, the "army" of the "National Committee;" but when I urged his Excellency to state this fact boldly to the Porte, if only with the object of covering his own responsibility, he replied that he could not take such a course, as his views would assuredly be communicated to the Russian Ambassador, to the prejudice of his position and influence.

My arguments in this respect having proved of no avail, I asked Aleko Pasha in what respect he thought that other European Governments could give him their assistance in the persecution of the policy which he was afraid to pursue under a fear of Russia?

He replied that if England and France were each to send an iron-clad to cruize off Bourgas, he would be able to disarm the gymnasts and to assert his own authority, and to establish order and tranquillity in the province.

Suspecting that he might have derived this idea from other sources, or that he had put it forward in order to ascertain my own views, I took care to attribute the novelty of the suggestion to his Excellency.

I pointed out at the same time that such a demonstration might give rise to a Bulgarian movement which General Streeker might not be able to repress with his insubordinate militia.

Aleko Pasha contended, however, that the demonstrations which he proposed would have the desired effect, without giving rise to the troubles that would be engendered by the threat or execution of a Turkish occupation. He urged that, if the Russian Government protested, it should be told that all the evil had originated from the distribution of arms and ammunition to the Bulgarian population.

I replied generally that I would take note of his suggestion, and in the meanwhile I advised him to devote his attention to the Refugee question, which was giving me, personally, much trouble, especially as his Excellency had not yet appointed a Turkish Secretary, according to his promise. I also directed his attention to the fact that a camp of exercise of gymnasts had been formed at a village near Carlova, and that

a Bulgarian village had been fined for not supplying that camp with a sufficient quantity of biscuits.

The Governor-General was apparently ignorant of this fact, as of several others which I mentioned, and took notes of what I told him on scraps of paper.

I may add, with respect to this camp, that, a few days ago, the Secretary to the French Delegation, who is supposed to be friendly to the Bulgarian cause, had been invited in writing by Mr. J. S. Guesholf, a member of the National Committee, to attend the "manœuvres" that were to take place at the camp.

At the close of the interview, of which I have thus given only a short sketch, the Governor-General entreated me to see him frequently, and to give him the benefit of my advice and information.

Unfortunately I have no confidence in the truthfulness or sincerity of Aleko Pasha, who simply seeks my support when he gets into serious trouble or is under the influence of fear, and on all other occasions adopts the advice which is transmitted to him, either directly or through his Bulgarian Directors, who are in intimate communication both with the Russian Consulate-General and the "National Committee."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 318.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 211. Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September 9, 1879.*

THE question of Arab-Tabia does not appear yet to have reached anything like its final solution.

I beg leave to inclose a précis of an article on the subject, which has appeared within the last few days in one of the leading Vienna journals in German (the "Fremdenblatt"), and which shows that the interest naturally attached to this question has not diminished.

I have had the honour on several occasions to draw your Lordship's attention to the efforts made secretly by Russia to induce Roumania to settle this frontier amicably with Bulgaria, without any further intervention of the Powers.

The subject of Arab-Tabia was mooted to M. Boerescо during his recent visit to St. Petersburgh.

I have reliable information, and from two distinct sources, that fresh proposals were made to Roumania secretly at St. Petersburgh within the last few days, but I am assured that they have been rejected again this time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 318.

Précis of an Article in the "Fremdenblatt," a German Vienna Newspaper, of September 7, 1879.

ARAB-TABIA.—An examination of the strategical value of two places in the immediate neighbourhood of Silistria, called Arab-Tabia and Ordou-Tabia (the latter has not been mentioned in the present dispute), shows that Russia, by insisting on their retention for Bulgaria, contemplates some other state of things than the *status quo* established by the Treaty of Berlin.

Varna and Silistria are the two keys of Bulgaria, and the latter loses all strategical importance if deprived of the two forts above mentioned.

Bulgaria has nothing to fear from Roumania, but the Dobrudja is at the mercy of the Bulgarians if these are allowed to retain these positions about it, which give it an aggressive character.

It has been objected by Russia that by the line of frontier as proposed by the Commission, the lands belonging to Silistria are so divided as to leave some of the vineyards on Roumanian territory, but no mention has been made that many of the

Mussulman inhabitants of Silistria have moved on to Roumanian soil, principally to Ostrovo (Adakhui) on the Danube, and that to these the possession of their lands will be rather an advantage than otherwise.

The remainder of the article states the reason for the construction of the bridge at this particular point, and need not be repeated, as it has been fully discussed by the late Colonel Home, C.B., and his colleagues.

No. 319.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 213.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September 13, 1879.*

FROM my previous correspondence, and from the despatches of Her Majesty's Ambassador and of Sir John Walsham at Berlin, your Lordship will have noticed the interest taken by the German Chancellor in a settlement of the claims of the Roumanian Railway Company favourable to the shareholders.

During his recent visit to Berlin, M. Stourdza, the Finance Minister, succeeded in coming to a preliminary understanding with the principal bankers interested in this subject with the concurrence of the Imperial Chancery and Foreign Office.

The shares of the present Company are of three different kinds, and are guaranteed by the net income from the railways of which they have the management, supplemented by the annual sum which the Roumanian Government is bound to make up.

It is proposed to replace all these shares by Roumanian "rentes" or stock at 6 per cent., having, moreover, an additional guarantee on the railway lines from which they originated.

The foreign Company would thus be gradually merged into a national one, and the railways would pass into Roumanian management, and be amalgamated with the other Government lines.

The chief political benefit of such a transaction would be that neither Russia nor Austria could by any possibility acquire any rights by purchase or otherwise to these lines, a danger always apprehended, and which has been repeatedly pointed out here from Berlin as an inducement to persevere in these negotiations.

Although the matter has got so far towards a satisfactory settlement, it appears that the Government here are desirous to obtain some further modifications in the arrangement lately concluded at Berlin, as the Agreement has to be submitted to the Legislature for its sanction before a general assembly of shareholders can be called together at Berlin to pronounce definitively on its acceptance.

Persons well conversant with this question assure me that, unless the leading bankers can be induced to consent to these modifications, which refer to some collateral guarantees, and not to the general principles of the conversion, its rejection by the Chambers would appear extremely probable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 320.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 215.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September 13, 1879.*

THE return of Prince Charles to his capital will, it is expected, be followed to-morrow by that of M. Boerescо.

Three solutions will be under the consideration of the Chambers as substituted for Article 7 of the Constitution, and they are expected to be asked to vote on at least two of them.

The first is supported by the entire Opposition. It consists in simply removing the objectionable paragraph from Article 7 and leaving all Jews to apply individually for naturalization.

This, of course, is the popular view, but it is objected to by M. Bratiano as unacceptable to the Powers.

All the Ministers present at Bucharest have given their adhesion to the system of categories as accepted by M. Stourdza at Berlin. Should M. Boerescо, on his arrival, give his consent, a Resolution or Bill in this sense will at once be laid before the Chambers.

Such a scheme, backed by M. Bratiano and M. Rosetti, will be sure to secure a majority, but whether it will have as many as two-thirds of supporters, which is indispensable, is another question.

M. Boerescо's proposal was for lists of individuals instead of categories. It is not known yet whether, after his interviews at the different offices, he will still insist on its adoption by his colleagues, or how far he may have modified his views on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 321.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 817.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 10, 1879.*

THE Council of Ministers is still discussing the new Règlement which the Porte is bound by the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin to introduce into the provinces of European Turkey. Yesterday, about thirty Articles of it were approved by the Council, but, as there are, I am informed, about 600, some time must elapse before they can all be discussed. Safvet Pasha, however, assures me that it is his earnest desire and intention that no unnecessary time should be lost in completing the Règlement, and referring it to the Local Commissions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 322.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 822.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 11, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note I have addressed to the Porte relative to the promulgation of the constitution for the Protestants of Turkey, and also one on the same subject which my German colleague has sent in.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 322.

Note Verbale.

Therapia, August 30, 1879.

FOR the space of nearly two years Her Majesty's Ambassador has been in communication with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs with reference to the promulgation of a constitution for the Protestant subjects of the Sultan. He has been authorized by successive Grand Viziers and Ministers for Foreign Affairs to inform his Government, who naturally takes a deep interest in the matter, that the constitution in question was about to be issued.

This announcement had given Her Majesty's Government great pleasure, as they saw in it a proof of the desire of His Imperial Majesty that perfect religious equality should exist among all his subjects, and at the same time of the concession to the Protestants of Turkey of what cannot but be considered as their right. Her Majesty's Ambassador regrets to say that the promises and assurances given him on this subject have not been fulfilled, notwithstanding his repeated representations to his Excellency Caratheodory Pasha and his predecessors. Excuses which Her Majesty's Ambassador may venture to characterize as frivolous have constantly been

put forward to delay the issue of the constitution, and the Protestants have hitherto been denied an act of common justice, and a right which has been recognized in the case of all the Christian and even non-Christian communities in Turkey. The Sublime Porte cannot but understand that its refusal to do justice to the Protestants, and to give them the same rights and privileges enjoyed by their fellow subjects, cannot but produce a very unfavourable effect upon the Protestant Governments of Europe. Her Majesty's Embassy trusts, therefore, that it will take such measures as it may judge necessary to issue, without delay, the constitution in question.

Inclosure 2 in No. 322.

Note Verbale.

Kaiserlich Deutsche Botschaft, Buyukdéré, le 8 Septembre, 1879.

L'AMBASSADE Impériale a entretenu à différentes reprises le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan de la situation qui était faite aux sujets Protestants de la Sublime Porte. Tandis que toutes les communautés non-Musulmanes jouissent d'une autonomie parfaite en ce qui concerne l'administration de leurs affaires et sont admises à être représentées dans les Conseils Provinciaux, les sujets Protestants seuls, bien que reconnus comme communauté, n'ont pas encore pu entrer en possession de ce droit, et ont été maintenus jusqu'à ce jour dans un certain état d'infériorité vis-à-vis des autres communautés.

En recherchant les causes qui ont amené cette situation regrettable à tous les points de vue, on doit se convaincre que c'est l'absence d'une constitution, accordant aux sujets Protestants les mêmes droits et priviléges dont jouissent toutes les communautés Chrétiennes et non-Chrétiennes en Turquie, qui fait naître dans l'esprit des autorités provinciales des doutes sur la situation légale de cette partie des sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Aussi la Sublime Porte, reconnaissant la justesse des demandes de ses sujets Protestants, a-t-elle plus d'une fois promis le promulgation de la constitution demandée.

L'Ambassade Impériale n'a pas à examiner ici les raisons qui ont empêché jusqu'à present la Sublime Porte de réaliser ses engagements, mais elle remplit un devoir en lui rappelant ses promesses antérieures et en l'engageant vivement à rendre enfin justice aux Protestants par la prompte promulgation de la constitution en question.

No. 323.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 823.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 11, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Counter-Declaration which was given in by the Turkish Commissioners at the meeting held on the 10th instant of the Commission on the Greek Frontier question.

I also inclose a copy of the Protocol of the second meeting of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 323.

Counter-Declaration of Turkish Commissioners, given in at Meeting on 10th September.

LA nouvelle Déclaration que les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Royal Hellénique ont eue, et déposée dans la séance du [illegible], a convaincu les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman de la nécessité d'une explication plus complète et plus catégorique sur les divergences de vues qui divisent les Plénipotentiaires des deux Etats. L'examen attentif du contenu de cette Déclaration sera pour les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans l'occasion naturelle non-seulement de justifier leur attitude,

et leur manière de voir, mais encore d'élucider définitivement la question si laborieusement discutée jusqu'ici au sein de la Conférence.

MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, répondant à la Déclaration faite dans la deuxième séance par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, veulent établir tout d'abord que cette Déclaration se divise en deux parties distinctes—l'une tendant à démontrer que les stipulations du Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin n'ont aucune force obligatoire, et ne contiennent qu'un vœu du Congrès; et l'autre acceptant comme base des négociations actuelles ces mêmes stipulations, sous la réserve de les discuter et de les modifier au besoin.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans considèrent cette division du contenu de leur Déclaration en deux parties indépendantes l'une de l'autre, comme le résultat d'une erreur, et comme cette erreur pourrait engendrer quelque malentendu, ils prient leurs collègues de Grèce de vouloir bien constater que la première partie de leur déclaration est indissolublement liée à la seconde, et lui sert d'introduction et de justification en ce sens, qu'elle explique pourquoi la Sublime Porte réserve aux deux parties la faculté de discuter et de modifier les indications du Protocole qu'elle accepte, d'ailleurs, comme base première des négociations qui vont s'ouvrir.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans sont également obligés de relever que MM. les Plénipotentiaires de Grèce ont très-improprement désigné les indications du Protocole No. 13, par le mot "stipulation," qui implique l'idée d'une Convention formelle qui serait intervenue entre les parties et créerait entr'elles des droits et des devoirs, ce qui n'est point le cas.

MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes déclarent ensuite que si le Gouvernement Ottoman regarde le Protocole No. 13 comme n'ayant pour lui aucune force obligatoire, le Gouvernement Hellénique le regarde comme ayant pour lui—Gouvernement Hellénique—une force obligatoire, et que, par conséquent, il ne pense pouvoir s'en écarter. Ils ajoutent que la manière de penser de chacune des deux parties sur la force du dit Protocole est un sujet étranger à la question posée par eux à leurs collègues Ottomans sur l'acceptation ou la non-acceptation du Protocole No. 13 comme base des négociations à entamer.

Ainsi leurs Excellences MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes proclament leur impuissance de s'écarter des indications du Protocole, c'est-à-dire de se départir de la Vallée du Calamas du côté de la Mer Ionienne, et de la Vallée du Pénéus, du côté de la Mer Egée, comme zone-frontière entre l'Empire Ottoman et la Grèce. Ils veulent bien admettre aujourd'hui que la Sublime Porte n'est liée par aucun engagement; mais ils considèrent leur Gouvernement comme étant lui-même irrévocablement engagé.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans croient pouvoir démontrer à leurs collègues de Grèce que l'obligation qui lierait, suivant eux, leur Gouvernement, n'existe point en réalité. Il suffit pour cela de rappeler les paroles prononcées par le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France au Congrès de Berlin, lorsqu'il a saisi le Congrès d'une proposition pour la rectification de la frontière Hellénique. Le Protocole No. 13 les reproduit ainsi qu'il suit:—

"Le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France croit donc servir également les intérêts des deux pays en proposant au Congrès d'indiquer, d'une manière générale, et sans porter atteinte à la souveraineté de la Porte, les limites qu'il voudrait voir assignées à la Grèce. L'autorité de la Haute Assemblée Européenne donnerait aux deux Gouvernements Ottoman et Grec la force morale nécessaire: au premier pour consentir à des concessions opportunes; au second, pour résister à des revendications exagérées. Mais, pour atteindre ce but son Excellence pense qu'il faut, d'une part, ne point solliciter de la Porte des sacrifices impossibles, de l'autre, faire appel à la modération de la Grèce. Le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France a donc regardé comme utile de tracer, comme base aux négociations, une ligne générale montrant à la fois: à la Turquie la mesure des intentions de l'Europe, et à la Grèce les limites qu'elle ne doit point dépasser. Tel est l'objet de la résolution suivante qu'il a l'honneur de soumettre, d'accord avec le Premier Plénipotentiaire d'Italie, aux délibérations du Congrès," &c.

Ces mots: "montrant à la fois à la Turquie la mesure des intentions de l'Europe et à la Grèce les limites qu'elle ne doit point dépasser," indiquent clairement, et sans équivoque, que le tracé des Vallées du Calamas et du Pénéus est pour la Grèce un maximum. Il s'ensuit dès lors et non moins logiquement que la Grèce, tenue de respecter ce maximum, est parfaitement libre de ne point l'atteindre et de réduire ses prétentions.

Si toutefois le Gouvernement Hellénique, bien que n'étant point lié par le Congrès de Berlin, veut se considérer lui-même comme engagé afin d'échapper à toute

démonstration qui, dans le cours de la discussion, pourrait l'induire à modifier les bases indiquées dans le Protocole No. 13, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, tout en regrettant cette résolution, ne croient pas devoir continuer à la combattre, et se bornent à en préciser et à en faire ressortir les graves et inévitables conséquences.

Ces conséquences sont:—

1. Que les Vallées du Calamas et du Pénéus sont hors et au-dessus de toute discussion, puisque en supposant que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans viennent à démontrer que cette ligne générale est défectueuse et contraire au but proposé et aux intérêts des deux Etats, cette démonstration serait stérile dès l'instant où le Gouvernement Hellénique s'interdit d'en tenir compte;

2. Que dans ces conditions, la discussion à laquelle les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes et les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans se convient mutuellement, serait superflue et presque dérisoire, puisqu'elle n'aurait plus d'objet.

3. Qu'enfin, et pour les mêmes raisons, l'invitation réitérée des Plénipotentiaires Hellènes aux Plénipotentiaires Ottomans de déclarer s'ils acceptent les indications du Protocole No. 13 équivaut à l'invitation de céder immédiatement, sans examen ni discussion, au Royaume de Grèce, toute la partie du territoire située au sud des Vallées du Calamas et du Pénéus.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ne croient pas que la justesse et la rigueur de ces déductions puissent être contestées, et sont dès lors autorisés à prier leurs collègues de Grèce de vouloir bien reconnaître combien étaient fondées et nécessaires les réserves dont ils ont accompagné leur acceptation des indications du Protocole No. 13 comme base des négotiations actuelles. Ce sont en effet ces réserves qui ont amené le Gouvernement Hellénique à proclamer le caractère, à ses yeux invariable, de ces indications et, comme conséquence, l'inutilité de toute discussion à cet égard.

Ce qui précède répond surabondamment à la dernière partie de la Déclaration Hellénique. Quant à l'interprétation donnée par MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes au mot "base" qui représenterait, suivant eux, quelque chose de fixe et d'immuable que les deux parties ne pourraient ni abandonner, ni modifier, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, sans rechercher la valeur de cette définition, se bornent à faire remarquer que les Puissances n'ont pas entendu le mot "base" dans le sens indiqué par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, puisque chaque ligne du Protocole démontre qu'elles ont voulu laisser aux parties toute liberté de discussion. Il convient d'ajouter que les Puissances, en déclarant être prêtes à offrir leur médiation, en cas de désaccord entre les deux Etats, admettent implicitement que la base indiquée n'est point invariable. Autrement la médiation offerte serait évidemment superflue, car les Puissances, n'ayant pas la faculté de s'écarter de cette base, devraient simplement la confirmer.

En conclusion, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans déclarent qu'ils ne sauraient répondre à la seconde invitation qui leur est adressée par les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique qu'en maintenant et en confirmant leur Déclaration précédente, lue et déposée dans la séance du $\frac{10}{31}$ Août. Ils constatent de nouveau que cette réponse ne pouvait être conçue dans des termes différents, et que l'acceptation pure et simple et sans réserve des indications du Protocole, comme base des négociations, aurait été considérée comme l'équivalent d'une cession territoriale faite à la Grèce au seuil même et en dehors des négociations.

Si les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique n'avaient point soulevé ce regrettable incident en produisant leur première Déclaration, les négociations se seraient ouvertes sans difficulté et dans les meilleures conditions pour les deux parties.

En effet, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans auraient purement et simplement déclaré qu'ils sont prêts à entrer en discussion sur les bases de négociations indiquées au Congrès de Berlin, et à rechercher, de concert avec leurs collègues de Grèce, si la ligne générale recommandée par les Puissances répond aux intérêts respectifs des deux Etats, ou s'il convient de l'abandonner ou de la modifier, en vue de ces mêmes intérêts.

MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes voudront bien remarquer que ce langage n'est que la reproduction et la confirmation du dernier paragraphe de la précédente Déclaration des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans portant qu'ils sont "disposés, par considération pour le vœu exprimé par les Puissances, à prendre comme bases premières des négociations qui vont s'ouvrir les indications du Protocole No. 13, pourvu qu'il soit bien entendu que ces bases ne lient en aucune façon les deux Gouvernements, qui pourront librement les modifier et les discuter au même titre que tout autre point de départ qui aurait pu être proposé par l'une ou l'autre des parties."

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans restent animés des mêmes dispositions loyales et conciliantes et seraient heureux de voir leurs collègues s'associer aujourd'hui d'un

programme qui repose à la fois—ils n'hésitent pas à l'affirmer—sur la vérité et sur la raison.

Que MM. les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Royal de Grèce veuillent bien considérer qu'en renonçant à un système qui supprime toute discussion utile et en reconnaissant qu'ils ne sont point condamnés à rester sourds à tout argument qui leur serait présenté dans le cours de la discussion, ils n'invalident ni n'altèrent en aucune façon le desideratum extrême de leur Gouvernement, puisqu'ils resteront toujours maîtres de leurs résolutions. Ils y gagneront de s'être ménagé l'heureuse éventualité d'une entente entre les deux Etats, et peut-être l'occasion de réformer eux-mêmes, après examen contradictoire, leurs idées actuelles.

Inclosure 2 in No. 323.

Protocole No. 2.—Séance du $\frac{1}{31}^{e}$ *Août*, 1879.

Présents:

Pour la Turquie—
Son Altesse Safvet Pacha,
Son Excellence Ali Saïb Pacha,
Son Excellence Sawas Pacha.

Pour la Grèce—
Son Excellence M. S. G. Coundouriotis.
Son Excellence M. Braïlas Armenis.

LA séance fixée à Jeudi, ayant été, sur la proposition des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, remise dans l'intervalle à ce jourd'hui, Dimanche, est ouverte à 2 heures de l'après-midi.

Le Protocole de la première réunion est lu et adopté.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha donne lecture de la Déclaration suivante:—

* * * * * *

A la suite de cette lecture, *Son Excellence M. Braïlas Armenis* prie MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans de vouloir bien s'expliquer nettement en déclarant s'ils acceptent ou non pour bases réelles des négociations qui vont s'ouvrir les indications contenues dans le Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha répond que la Déclaration dont il vient d'avoir l'honneur de donner lecture est explicite à cet égard, et que la Sublime Porte est tout prête à prendre pour point de départ des nouvelles négociations les bases susdites, sous la réserve bien entendu de pouvoir les discuter librement et, s'il y a lieu, les modifier.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas reprenant la parole, dit qu'il regrette de constater que la réponse de la Sublime Porte équivaut à un refus, puisque en acceptant les indications du Protocole No. 13 comme bases des négociations, elle admet aussi que ces mêmes indications peuvent être éliminées par l'adoption d'une autre base. Son Excellence ajoute que le mot "premières" indique seulement priorité dans l'ordre de la discussion; que l'adjectif détruit le substantif; que le seul honneur qu'on fait à la proposition des Puissances, s'est qu'on se borne à la discuter avant toute autre, tout en ayant soin de se réserver de l'exclure le plus tôt possible, ainsi qu'un ami importun à qui on donne le pas pour le mettre plus vite à la porte; que telle n'était certes pas l'opinion de l'Europe, qui invita les deux parties à reprendre les négociations; que ce refus indirect à la décision de l'Europe nous ramène au point où ont été rompues les négociations de Preveza; que les Puissances et encore moins la Grèce n'entendraient pas assister à une répétition de ce qui s'est passé à Preveza, et que le Gouvernement du Roi entend poser comme unique base des négociations la décision de l'Europe, et arriver, s'il est possible, à une entente avec le Gouvernement Impérial.

A cet effet M. Braïlas croit qu'on doit reprendre les négociations du point où elles ont été rompues à Preveza, et prie de nouveau MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans de déclarer nettement s'ils acceptent comme base les indications du Protocole No. 13.

Son Excellence M. Coundouriotis s'associe pleinement aux vues exposées par son collègue, et constate que la question n'a fait malheureusement aucun pas depuis les Conférences de Preveza.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha prenant la parole s'élève tout d'abord contre l'interprétation donnée par MM. les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques à la Déclaration lue par Son

Altesse le Président, et déclare être prêt à démontrer que la situation n'est pas la même qu'à Preveza; que la Sublime Porte a fait un pas très-important dans un but de conciliation, et que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans apportent les dispositions les plus sincères, et le désir le plus vif, de faire aboutir les négociations qui viennent de s'ouvrir. Son Excellence constate, en effet, que malgré qu'il soit parfaitement établi sans contestation possible par les considérants de la Déclaration qui vient d'être lue, que la Sublime Porte n'est liée par aucun engagement, et que les indications du Protocole No. 13 n'ont jamais été considérées par les Puissances comme obligatoires pour la Turquie, le Gouvernement Impérial accepte, par déférence pour le vœu exprimé par les Puissances à Berlin, de prendre pour point de départ de la discussion les indications de ce Protocole. "Ce n'est donc point," dit Sawas Pacha, "un acte de pure courtoisie, ni un semblant de conciliation, mais bien un essai sincère et sérieux de trouver dans les indications formulées à Berlin la base d'une entente entre les deux Etats." A l'appui de cette démonstration son Excellence relit la première partie du dernier paragraphe de la Déclaration Ottomane.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas fait observer que la seconde partie de ce même paragraphe, dont il invite son collègue Ottoman à donner également lecture, infirme la première partie et la rend entièrement illusoire.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha répond qu'il s'étonne que ses honorables collègues de la Grèce semblent mettre en doute le droit que chacun, Gouvernement ou particulier, possède naturellement de discuter toute proposition qui touche à ses intérêts, de si haut qu'elle puisse venir, dans le but de signaler et de corriger ses imperfections, s'il en existe. Il ajoute que ce droit a été scrupuleusement respecté par les Puissances à Berlin qui, bien loin de vouloir imposer à la Turquie des décisions sans discussion, se sont bornées, ainsi qu'il résulte des Protocoles, à exprimer de simples suggestions, en lui recommandant d'entrer en négociations avec la Grèce pour les discuter librement et essayer d'arriver ainsi à l'entente désirée.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas, pour combattre cette assertion, invoque les paroles prononcées par M. Waddington à Berlin et qui ont été incomplétement citées dans la réponse de MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans. Le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France a dit, en effet: "qu'il regardait comme utile de tracer, comme base aux négociations, une ligne générale montrant à la fois, à la Turquie la mesure des intentions de l'Europe, et à la Grèce les limites qu'elle ne doit point dépasser. Tel est l'objet de la résolution suivante qu'il a l'honneur de soumettre, d'accord avec le Premier Plénipotentiaire d'Italie, aux délibérations du Congrès:

"Le Congrès invite la Sublime Porte à s'entendre avec la Grèce pour une rectification de frontières en Thessalie et en Épire, et est d'avis que cette rectification pourrait suivre la Vallée du Salamyrias (ancien Pénéus) sur le versant de la Mer Égée, et celle du Calamas du côté de la Mer Ionienne."

Telles sont les paroles prononcées par M. Waddington. Elles démontrent que le Congrès a formulé un avis et non point un simple vœu.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha prenant, à son tour, le Protocole No. 13, donne de son côté lecture du paragraphe commençant par ces mots: "Le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France croit donc servir également les intérêts des deux pays."

Ainsi que des deux paragraphes suivants, il dit, qu'effectivement le mot "avis" existe, et que quoique dans un débat ultérieur et définitif ce terme ait été expliqué dans le sens d'un simple *vœu* par la bouche du Président lui-même du Congrès, il ne voit aucune difficulté à admettre que les Puissances ont formulé un avis, et à se servir désormais de cette expression dans la discussion. "Or," ajoute-t-il, "un avis est essentiellement discutable. La preuve en est que, le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France s'est servi des termes suivants: 'de tracer comme base aux négociations, une ligne générale montrant à la fois, à la Turquie la mesure des intentions de l'Europe, et à la Grèce les limites qu'elle ne doit pas dépasser.' Qui dit base de négociations, dit base à discuter, et cette base de discussion recommandée par l'Europe avec la croyance de servir également les intérêts des deux pays, cette base, dit-il, nous l'admettons, en nous réservant naturellement la faculté de l'examiner en commun avec nos honorables collègues, pour reconnaître si elle ne contient rien de nuisible et si elle est acceptable pour les deux Etats dont elle est, il ne saurait le répéter assez, destinée à servir les intérêts.

"Nous croyons nous conformer ainsi strictement à l'esprit et à la lettre du Protocole invoqué, et nous sommes convaincus que nos collègues Helléniques, s'ils l'entendaient autrement, se mettraient eux-mêmes en opposition avec la volonté de l'Aréopage Européen."

Son Excellence M. Braïlas répond que le Protocole n'a pas sûrement tracé toute la

ligne, car alors la Conférence n'a pas d'objet, parce que si, dans le Protocole No. 13 on avait indiqué toute la ligne, on n'aurait qu'à envoyer des Commissaires sur les lieux pour la tracer matériellement. La Conférence doit avoir une base fixe et c'est précisément pour poser cette base que nous avons adressé à MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans la question à laquelle ils viennent de répondre par leur Déclaration.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha déclare que dans sa pensée c'est précisément cette nouvelle explication de son Excellence M. Braïlas qui rendrait la Conférence actuelle inutile et sans objet, et qu'on ne comprendrait pas que les Puissances aient invité d'une manière si pressante les deux Etats à ouvrir de nouvelles négociations à Constantinople. S'expliquant à ce sujet, il constate que le Congrès a indiqué deux vallées dont l'une parcourt toute la Thessalie, et l'autre les trois quarts à peu près de l'Epire, de sorte qu'il ne reste entre elles qu'un espace fort restreint et essentiellement montagneux. "Si son Excellence M. Braïlas croit que nous sommes ici pour tracer sur ces montagnes le bout de ligne qui doit réunir les deux vallées, je regrette de devoir lui répondre qu'il m'est impossible d'accepter son opinion, attendu que ce serait l'œuvre non point d'une Conférence tenant ses séances à Caulidja, mais d'une Commission d'officiers d'Etat-Major opérant sur les lieux mêmes. Je suis sûr," continue son Excellence Sawas Pacha, "que l'Europe veut que nous discutions ici toute la ligne afin de voir si elle est acceptable aux deux Etats. Toutes choses égales d'ailleurs," ajoute son Excellence Sawas Pacha, "si au lieu d'un avis, base d'une discussion, le Congrès avait entendu rendre, à propos de ces deux vallées, un verdict, comme la Grèce le prétend, il en résulterait que dès la signature du Traité de Berlin, le territoire situé au sud des deux vallées en question aurait été, aux yeux des Puissances, détaché de l'Empire Ottoman et annexé à la Grèce." Il croit superflu de faire remarquer, d'ailleurs, que la pensée de l'Europe est en opposition formelle avec une pareille hypothèse, ainsi que du reste cela résulte du Protocole No. 13.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha, pour corroborer ce raisonnement, donne lecture des paroles prononcées par M. Waddington dans la séance du 5 Juillet du Congrès de Berlin (Protocole No. 13), paroles qui affirment le respect de la souveraineté Ottomane, et demande à MM. les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques ce que signifieraient ces paroles si l'Europe, en même temps qu'elle les prononçait, entendait disposer des domaines du Sultan en faveur de la Grèce. Son Altesse fait au surplus remarquer que le territoire qui, suivant le système Hellénique, aurait été définitivement assigné à la Grèce, est de fait et de droit sous la souveraineté de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas dit que la souveraineté de la Porte n'est pas du tout en question; qu'elle est maintenue sur le territoire dont il s'agit jusqu'au jour où, suivant la pensée de l'Europe, il aura été cédé à la Grèce, car les Puissances ont voulu que cette cession se fît par le concours et la coopération des deux parties, et que c'est pour cela que les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques demandent à leurs collègues s'ils acceptent les bases posées au Protocole No. 13.

Répondant à son Excellence, il dit que l'Europe a indiqué deux points extrêmes, qu'entre ces deux points on peut tracer la ligne de plusieurs façons et que c'est là ce qui doit faire le sujet des négociations actuelles.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha constate que depuis le Traité de Berlin deux malentendus également regrettables subsistent au sujet de la question de rectification de la frontière Hellénique. Le premier déjà examiné et discuté dans cette même séance repose sur le prétendu caractère obligatoire de l'avis émis par les Puissances à Berlin. C'est ce premier malentendu qui est cause de la réponse que son Excellence M. Braïlas vient de donner à son Excellence le Président. Le second résulte de la croyance que les Puissances auraient désigné deux points extrêmes du tracé futur: l'un sur la Mer Egée, l'autre sur la Mer Ionienne. Or, la recherche la plus attentive, n'est point parvenue à faire découvrir dans aucun des Protocoles du Congrès de Berlin une indication de cette nature, le mot "point," "embouchure," ou "delta" n'y étant inscrit nulle part. Au contraire, il y est dit et répété que l'avis des Puissances consiste à indiquer que la rectification projetée *pourrait suivre* la vallée du Salamyrias sur le versant de la Mer Egée, et celle du Calamas du côté de la Mer Ionienne. Mais une vallée n'est qu'un espace compris entre deux élévations de terrain, et il est constant que le Salamprias d'une part et le Calamas de l'autre, forment deux vallées qui se poursuivent naturellement vers l'intérieur à la rencontre l'une de l'autre et vont se perdre aux pieds des hautes montagnes qui leur donnent naissance, d'où il suit invinciblement que si les indications de Berlin devaient être considérées comme définitives, les négociateurs ici présents n'auraient aucune tâche à accomplir, et devraient, comme il a été dit plus haut, céder la place à une Commission de Délimitation.

Sawas Pacha ajoute: "Même dans l'hypothèse où les Puissances auraient indiqué non point deux vallées, comme elles l'ont fait, mais deux points extrêmes, à savoir: l'embouchure du Salamyrias et celle du Calamas, le raisonnement de nos honorables collègues de Grèce ne pourrait rien y gagner, car il faudrait en conclure que l'Europe a déjà entendu disposer irrévocablement en en dépouillant la Turquie du littoral situé au sud de ces deux points, supposition qui serait évidemment répudiée par toute l'Europe comme contraire au droit des gens et à sa volonté formellement exprimée de respecter l'indépendance de la Sublime Porte." Son Excellence Sawas Pacha fait remarquer que s'il s'est appesanti sur ce sujet, c'est dans la loyale intention d'éviter toute cause de malentendu et de faire mieux ressortir encore le véritable caractère de l'avis exprimé par les Puissances à Berlin.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas dit qu'il croit inutile de répéter tout ce qu'il a déjà développé et déclaré, et qu'il ne saurait prendre qu'*ad referendum* les déclarations des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans.

Son Excellence M. Condouriotis prenant la parole, dit que l'interprétation de ses collègues de Turquie est inadmissible et qu'il peut le déclarer dès à présent.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha engage M. Condouriotis à ne point faire cette Déclaration avant d'avoir une dernière fois entendu lecture de certains passages des Protocoles Nos. 18 et 19 du Congrès de Berlin; l'un est conçu dans les termes suivants:—

"Le Président dit que le paragraphe dont il s'agit exprime un vœu du Congrès, et non pas une résolution à laquelle la Porte soit sollicitée de s'associer. Les Puissances se bornent à exprimer qu'elles sont animées du désir de voir réussir les négociations, et sur ce point il ne semble pas que la Porte ait d'opinion à donner ni de décision à prendre en Congrès."—Protocole 18.

Et l'autre:—

"Le Président fait observer que cet Article n'a pas d'intérêt pour les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans puisqu'il ne s'agit que des intentions de six Puissances qui demeurent toujours libres de s'entendre entre elles sur ce point en dehors de la Turquie."

Sawas Pacha prie son Excellence M. Condouriotis de constater une fois de plus qu'il ne s'est jamais agi que d'un simple vœu et non point d'une résolution, et que la Sublime Porte n'avait pas à prendre de décision à ce sujet en Congrès; "ceci signifie," poursuit-il, "que la Sublime Porte exercerait ce droit de décision que les Puissances lui reconnaissent si explicitement hors du Congrès, c'est-à-dire, dans les négociations actuelles. Le même passage du Protocole," ajoute Sawas Pacha, "nous apprend que l'Europe est animée du désir de voir réussir ces négociations. Par conséquent, toute résolution de nature à empêcher des négociations ayant un point de départ rigoureusement conforme aux vœux de l'Europe, serait en opposition formelle avec les volontés des Puissances."

A la suite de cet échange d'idées, *son Excellence M. Braïlas*, considérant pour aujourd'hui la discussion comme épuisée, propose à son Altesse le Président la clôture de la séance.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha ayant accepté, *MM. les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques* se réservent de donner leur réponse écrite à la prochaine séance, qui est fixée à Jeudi, [illegible] à 2 heures de l'après-midi.

Son Excellence M. Condouriotis annonce que son Gouvernement a nommé comme Plénipotentiaire l'Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté le Roi, le Major d'Artillerie M. Panos Colocotronis, qui prendra part à la réunion suivante.

La séance est levée à 3 heures et demie.

No. 324.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 824.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 12, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 765 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a report from Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth respecting the complaints of the inhabitants of Macrinitza. Mr. Longworth's Report of the 9th July, to which allusion is made, has already been forwarded to your Lordship by Mr. Consul-General Blunt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 324.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, August 30, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE this day received your Excellency's despatch of the 17th instant, inquiring into the truth of the complaints contained in an inclosed copy of a telegram addressed to you by some inhabitants of Macrinitza.

In answer I beg to state that the assertions in the telegram are well-founded, and, at the same time, to draw your Excellency's attention to the Report I addressed to Mr. Consul-General Blunt on the subject of the remission of last year's taxes, dated Larissa, the 9th July, 1879, wherein I explain the reasons I had in not urging the authorities to extend this immunity to the villagers of Macrinitza.

In connection with that Report I have now to add that on the 14th instant, whilst at Volo, another deputation from Macrinitza presented themselves before me, and expressed their determination not to pay the taxes in question; and that also, later on in the day, one of the principal members of their community called on me, accompanied by the Greek Vice-Consul, to beg that I would use my influence in obtaining the release of some thirty or forty Macrinitziots imprisoned by the Kaïmakam of Volo with the object of enforcing the payment of this demand. I agreed with them that it was a moment both dangerous and inexpedient to adopt such extreme measures, and promised to speak privately to the Kaïmakam on the subject.

This gentleman happening to call on me in the course of the same day, I availed myself of the opportunity to point out to him the ill-feeling and excitement caused by the steps he had taken, and to suggest to him the possibility of its occasioning at such a critical moment serious riots, if not broils, between the inhabitants of Macrinitza and the troops stationed at the village.

It appears that the Kaïmakam, on leaving me, at once communicated these apprehensions to the Mutessarif, Said Pasha, who telegraphed back instructions to release the prisoners, and not to press the villagers too hard for the present; a course adopted, and carried out ever since.

As regards forced labour, I may briefly state that it arises purely from a military requisition of carts and beasts of burden, which are from time to time seized and retained by the authorities on a doubtful promise of paying the fares; and that, moreover, this Ordinance not always and not only affects Macrinitza, but also all the towns and villages of the province, whenever and wherever there are troops on the move.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

No. 325.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 825.)

My Lord,

Therapia, September 14, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 667 of the 27th July last, I have the honour to inclose copies of two despatches I have received from Mr. Consul Henderson and Lieutenant Chermside, containing their observations upon the Report of the Turkish Commissioners sent to inquire into the affairs of Zeitoun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 325.

Mr. Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, September 3, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 27th July, and, in reply, I confine myself to a few observations on the concluding paragraph, as all the other matters treated of in the inclosures have already been the subject of copious explanations in previous despatches.

I would premise my observations by stating that I read over this part of the inclosure to Narivan Effendi, who communicated it to Mazhar Pasha, and they both stated to me, on more than one occasion, that they had never made such statements to the Porte as those contained in the inclosures to your Excellency's despatch.

Be this as it may, I have the honour to state to your Excellency that I have never given the Zeitounites any particular or distinct promise of any definite advantage to be enjoyed by them as a reward for their good behaviour during the interregnum which caused Kiamil Pasha's ill-treatment of them.

I promised that if they remained quiet the Turkish Government would see that justice was done to them and their wrongs righted, and I think it would be difficult to find another example of nobler forbearance than what was displayed by these ignorant mountaineers under circumstances so trying. That promise I gave them, and the documents in your Excellency's possession affirm that it averted scenes of bloodshed and disorder which would have been most deplorable, and a rising which would have drained the local treasury, and which the troops then in the province might have found it difficult to quell. That I ever gave any promise that the Redel Aeker would be replaced by the conscription is incorrect, and it is equally incorrect that I have promised them the arms seized by Kiamil Pasha, though undoubtedly I considered it most unjust that the Christian population should be disarmed and left defenceless to the tender mercies of their Circassian neighbours.

I admit having advocated to your Excellency the desirability of liberating the prisoners, the greater part of whom I knew to be innocent, and the result has proved that of the 323 persons seized by Kiamil Pasha, 192 have already been declared innocent of any offence, and that by a packed Turkish Tribunal.

I believe the amnestying of Babek and his associates to be a step which the Turkish Government ought to take in its own interests. Its political expediency is unquestionable, but I am afraid the Ottoman Government is sometimes under the influence of motives other than political in the treatment of their Christian subjects.

The policy of constructing a barrack at Zeitoun has scarcely ever been touched by me, and instead of supporting the proposal to name a Christian Kaïmakam, I have opposed it as being an inopportune moment for raising the question. As regards the arrears of taxes, the Zeitounites are absolutely unable to pay them, and it is stated that even if all their property were sold there would still be a deficiency.

Under these circumstances, the collection of 20,000*l.* arrears of taxation would utterly ruin the Armenians of Zeitoun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 325.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, September 4, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, the following remarks on the document forwarded in your Excellency's despatch of the 27th July for my observations:

The document in question, with the exception of statements in the opening and concluding paragraphs as to the accuracy of the details of which I wish to offer some remarks, appears to me to be a complete confirmation of my Reports, and to consist of a résumé of the doings of the Commission almost exactly similar to my despatch of the 20th May. By this, indeed, the accuracy of my assertion as to the sole results of the Commissioner's presence and action being a military occupation, the construction of a large barrack and the appointment of some unpaid Councils is confirmed, as also the statement as to the disposition of the prisoners, and that the arrest of the Chief among those upon the mountain had been ordered.

Taking the document as it stands, it can scarcely be said that the Commissioners have made out their case as to having given a definite solution to the vexed questions, though the progress towards the one indicated by me from the commencement, and stigmatized as severe measures of repression, is clearly indicated. "Prisoners proceeded against with all rigour of law in process of trial, and likely to be condemned" (since condemned). "No mention of apprehension or trial of Mussulman malefactors, such as the men who stole the mules, the assassin of Djehan Budge outrage, who

were denounced by the Commissioners." "Severe measures against the outlaws on the mountain instead of a pardon."

"Military occupation and construction of a barrack." "No remittal of arrears of taxation, or lenient settlement of this question." Such are the evidence of its contents.

I may inform your Excellency, confidentially, that Said Pasha considers my view of the case on the following points clearly made out:—

1. That four months have been spent in indefinite action, and with no tangible result except the barrack, &c.

2. That the omission of the points I have already enumerated in Nos. 13 and 17 is an omission amounting to misrepresentation.

The Christian Commissioner informs me, in strict confidence, that on the receipt of my reports from the Porte Mazhar Pasha was excessively angry, and wished to write a refutation; that after consultation it was decided that as in their Reports there were no misstatements (and with two not very important exceptions I have admitted this, see No. 13) it would be better to be silent on the subject. In fact, they admitted the accuracy of my statements. I may add that the Christian Commissioner, in congratulating me on the Reports, and on the manner in which your Excellency had received and acted on them, remarked that they were even "en deça de la vérité."

Paragraph 1. As regards the 500 armed men mentioned in the opening paragraph, I cannot imagine who these were, and I think it utterly impossible that they should have been assembled anywhere without my hearing of it. I believe 120 to have been the outside number with Babbek, and that 80 to 90 of these remain. I have already explained to your Excellency that arrests are only ordered against the Chiefs, and that others come and go; they have, however, made no formal submission, nor received any guarantee, and on the slightest alarm would again take to the mountains.

Paragraph 2. The institution of the Medjliss spoken of in this paragraph is mentioned in my despatch No. 9.

Paragraphs 3 and 4. The Naib, the Division of the Criminal Court, Omer Effendi, &c., see No. 9.

Paragraph 5. Formation of Communes. See No. 9.

Paragraphs 7 and 8. See No. 9. Unfortunately, however, the "Chef du Bureau Cadastral," who never went out on the ground, did not manage affairs well, and was removed from the Presidency of the Committee. See No. 17.

It is true that orders have been given, but the Cadastre has not been made, and the affair is still unsettled. The Commissioner informed me of this two days ago.

Paragraph 9. This completely bears out my statement (see No. 17) that "the old zaptiehs had been sent away and new ones hired," but that there was no change of system, or real reorganization.

Paragraph 10. I did not assist at the sacrifice of sheep, &c.

Paragraphs 12 and 13. As I reported to your Excellency, instructions were given to take measures and at once arrest Babbek and the other Chiefs; hitherto the pursuit, if it has been made, has met with the same success as for a year past, which, on their side, the authors have refrained from any act of outrage.

I scarcely understand the exact wording of the succeeding paragraph, but to the best of my belief no formal submissions or surrenders have been made.

Paragraph 15. This exactly confirms my report to your Excellency. 21 prisoners illegally detained have been liberated; the remaining 131 prisoners tried and condemned to sentences varying from death down to 4 years' imprisonment.

Paragraph 16. I have never meant to assert that the Commissioners purposely stirred up animosity. The words I used were: "Presence of Commissioner has distinctly aggravated situation and increased hopelessness of people." (Telegram of June 1.) I thought so then, and now am more than ever confirmed in my opinion that the dispatch of a Commissioner which, after four months' work, has left the matter in the state it is now in, is a distinct aggravation of the situation, and I may add that, as the Consul and myself stated in the joint Report we forwarded to your Excellency, this is general throughout the district. As to no "incident fâcheux," I think the recent spectacle of a mob of Moslem women throwing stones at the prison at Marash and demanding to have the Giaours given over to them, and the passive attitude of the Government officials thereupon, may, if, as I have no reason to doubt, my informant is correct, be fairly included in such a category. The treatment of the Marash prisoners I might also instance.

Recent small events here, at Antioch, Urfa, Marash, Kiliss, Albistan, Gyuk Sun,

&c., taken individually, are, perhaps, unimportant—collectively, I imagine your Excellency will find that I have not attached too great importance to them. I hardly like to venture an opinion, but your Excellency has always received mine so kindly, I may state that in my judgment the Sandjak of Marash requires immediately a firm military Governor—if not military sub-Governors as well—the Governor to have power to proclaim a state of siege, at any rate to enforce martial law. I would even place the City of Aleppo, where scenes of violence and outrage are of almost, if not of quite, daily occurrence, under martial law.

As regards the Consul, Mr. Henderson will, of course, answer himself; but there are some such evident errors, that I think it well to mention them.

The question of military conscription was not broached till the visit of the Commission. The barrack was only commenced at the same time, six months after Mr. Henderson's visit. In conversation, indeed, we both always admitted the right of the Government to construct a barrack, and the Consul always rather advocated it as an ulterior measure. Personally, I declined to express an opinion till I had visited the locality.

As regards a Christian Kaïmakam, both Mr. Henderson and myself, much as we should like to see the principle admitted, are against the appointment of one. Just as a Christian Minister's position in the Turkish Cabinet is difficult, so would be that of a Kaïmakam who would have the Mutessarif and all the neighbouring Kaïmakams against him, and who would represent the interests of the people far less powerfully than a good Turk (assisted by a Christian).

In his despatch No. 1 of January 6, Mr. Henderson avowedly avoids entering into the question of the taxes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 326.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 268.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 12, 1879.

THE Prince of Bulgaria having sent an accredited Agent to Belgrade, who has, however, not yet been officially received by M. Ristich, the Ottoman Representative has, in obedience to the orders of the Sublime Porte, formally warned the Servian Government against recognizing him in that capacity.

M. Ristich, on his side, seems to consider himself bound to accord to the Agent of the sister Principality the same ill-defined but semi-official position formerly conceded at Vienna and elsewhere to the Agents of this Principality when it was still a vassal State.

With the object, therefore, of placing clearly before his Excellency the views entertained by Her Majesty's Government on this point, and of thus obviating future diplomatic incidents, I have, in conformity with the tenour of the directions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 89 of the 25th ultimo, addressed to him the note, a copy of which is herewith inclosed, as well as a copy of the instructions furnished by the Sublime Porte to their Representative here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 326.

Mr. Gould to M. Ristich.

M. le Président du Conseil, *Belgrade, September* 12, 1879.

IN consequence of the information which has reached me that His Serene Highness the Prince of Bulgaria has notified to His Highness Prince Milan his intention to send an accredited Agent to Belgrade, and that, in conformity with the formal instructions conveyed to him by the Sublime Porte, the Ottoman Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in this capital has officially remonstrated against recognition by the Servian Government of the above-mentioned Bulgarian Agent, I consider it my duty to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government fully share the

views of the Sublime Porte on this point, holding that such an Agent can have no diplomatic rank whatever, and cannot be recognized as possessing such rank by the Representative of any other State.

I take, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 326.

Safvet Pasha to Sermed Effendi.

Constantinople, le 1er Février, 1879.

M. l'Envoyé,

J'AI reçu le Rapport que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le 8 Août relativement à la notification à la Serbie de l'avènement du Prince de Battenberg et aux relations diplomatiques de cette Principauté avec la Bulgarie.

Il est regrettable que la Principauté Bulgare, suivant en cela les errements des anciennes Principautés vassales de la Sublime Porte, veuille entretenir des Agents Diplomatiques à l'étranger, alors que sa situation vis-à-vis du Gouvernement Impérial, si nettement définie par le Traité de Berlin, ne saurait à aucun titre le lui permettre. Vous voudrez, par conséquent, vous prévaloir de la position qui est faite à la Bulgarie en vertu même de ce Traité, pour insister auprès du Gouvernement Serbe afin qu'il ne reconnaisse pas l'Agent que la Principauté Bulgare a l'intention d'accréditer à Belgrade.

Quant au Consul-Général que la Serbie vient de nommer à Sophia, il est évident qu'il ne saurait entrer en fonctions sans l'exequatur de la Sublime Porte, et je vous prie de bien préciser ce point aux yeux de M. Ristich. Je crois devoir ajouter que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a déjà demandé et obtenu l'exequatur du Gouvernement Impérial pour son Consul-Général en Bulgarie.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 327.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 269.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, September 12, 1879.

I HAVE not ceased, as your Lordship is aware, to remind M. Ristich of the solemn engagements he is under to call the Great Skuptchina together at the earliest possible date, in order to comply with the last remaining formality necessary to give effect to the measure for the relief of the Jews in this Principality. His Excellency's invariable answer has been that Her Majesty's Government need be under no apprehensions on that score, for both His Highness Prince Milan and he considered themselves in honour bound to keep the strictest faith with the Signatory Powers, adding that I might rest perfectly assured the measure would be carried through successfully before the year was out. Each time I pressed his Excellency to acquaint me with the precise date of the forthcoming meeting of the Great Skuptchina he renewed his previous assurances, but pleaded the necessity of completing the arrangements to secure the return of Deputies favourable to the measure, of postponing the election until after the harvest, and, finally, of his proceeding to Nisch to confer with his Sovereign before taking any decision.

Vague but disquieting rumours, however, reached me that on the eve of his Excellency's departure for Nisch serious dissensions had broken out among the members of the Cabinet, the majority, in opposition to the views held by the Prime Minister, being of opinion that, as no term had been fixed in the Treaty of Berlin binding Servia to emancipate the Jews within a given period, she was free to adjourn the final consideration of the question until it had been solved in Roumania. They also maintained that, owing to the popular discontent caused by the collection of the new patent or income tax, and by the distress resulting from the failure of the crops, the convocation of so numerous and unmanageable a body as the Great Skuptchina might be attended with very serious consequences to the Ministry and the country.

I thereupon telegraphed to his Excellency at Nisch, warning him that he would be

strictly kept to his engagement, and that Her Majesty's Government would no doubt refuse to enter into any Treaty with Servia before she had fulfilled her Treaty obligations in respect to the emancipation of the Jews.

Nevertheless, the language held by M. Ristich since his return from Nisch has undergone a complete change, and he no longer holds out any hopes of being able to convoke the Great Skuptchina this year. Although his Excellency makes no attempt to repudiate engagements on the faith of which the Signatory Powers consented to recognize the independence of Servia, and still professes to be prepared to carry them out at once, should the Powers insist upon it, he now urges that, in the actual temper of the country, the success of the measure affecting the Jews might be compromised were it to be immediately submitted to the Great Skuptchina; whereas, if permitted to choose a more opportune moment, he would be able to look upon a favourable result as a matter of absolute certainty. He further points out that, in the event of an adverse vote, the whole process of causing the measure to be passed by two successive ordinary Skuptchinas would again have to be gone through before it could be brought back to its present stage, and that, under the most propitious circumstances, it could not by any possibility become law for the next two years. His Excellency was also good enough to remark that the failure of the measure in Servia would tend to aggravate the difficulties of a like nature the Signatory Powers have to contend with in Roumania.

Nevertheless, I should be sorry to call in doubt the sincerity of Prince Milan's and his Prime Minister's professions of their desire to act in good faith, for the emancipation of the Jews is far from possessing that importance for Servia which it has for Roumania. At most it may affect the Belgrade merchants and shopkeepers, who have cause to dread the competition of the Jews in the interior of the Principality. I prefer to attribute the unexpected change in M. Ristich's language to the opposition of his less enlightened colleagues in the Cabinet, and to reasons of internal policy totally unconnected with the question at issue.

However, the course pursued by his Excellency may be unfortunately judged otherwise, for it has every appearance of a skilful though, perhaps, disingenuous diplomatic manœuvre to evade all further responsibility as regards the fulfilment of the *sine qud non* condition on which he obtained the recognition of his country's independence, and to place the Signatory Powers in a very perplexing dilemma. Should the latter insist, against his advice, on demanding the immediate Convocation of the Great Skuptchina, and the measure be thrown out by that popular Assembly, he could scarcely be held responsible for so untoward a result. He would naturally resign office for a short time, after which he could return to power completely released from all his previous engagements. Should the Powers, as he proposes, consent to the postponement of the question for the present, unforeseen circumstances might possibly arise which would prevent his finding an opportune moment for again bringing it forward, and the emancipation of the Jews would thus be practically adjourned *sine die*.

The position of Prince Milan in this matter is, of course, quite different, and His Highness cannot but be aware how difficult and painful it might become, were he to show the slightest hesitation in redeeming, at all risks, the solemn pledges he has given the Signatory Powers. Moreover, His Highness is much too alive to the interests of his country not to recognize, as fully as M. Ristich did at the time, the force of the expression employed by your Lordship in a recent communication to the Servian Government, that the surest guarantee of the continued independence of Servia lies in the sympathies of Europe.

I am, therefore, disposed to think that when His Highness and M. Ristich are once made to see clearly all the consequences of the course they seem to be entering upon, and that the Powers will not entertain any excuses whatever, they will readily find means not only to convoke the Great Skuptchina without further delay, but to secure a majority in favour of the emancipation of the Jews.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 328.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 271.)
Belgrade, September 14, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE much satisfaction in being able to report to your Lordship that, on my recommendation, the Servian Government has selected M. Babitch, the Natchalnik or Prefect of Alexinatz, to replace the one at Nisch, of whose ill-treatment the Mahommedan, as well as the Jewish, population of that town and district have of late had so much cause to complain.

M. Babitch is personally known to me, and he is generally admitted to be one of the most honourable, conciliatory, and able officials in the whole Servian Administration—an opinion which I am glad to add is entirely shared by Mr. Baker, the British Vice-Consul at Nisch, as your Lordship will perceive from the inclosed copy of a despatch he has addressed to me on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 328.

Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. Gould.

Nisch, September 8, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 1st instant, and also your despatch of the 3rd instant.

It is a source of great satisfaction to me to observe from your despatch of the 3rd instant that the present Prefect of Nisch is to be replaced by M. Babitch, the Prefect of Alexinatz. During the last three years I have had many opportunities of observing the energetic and honourable character of M. Babitch, and I therefore think he may (unless controlled by the instructions of his superiors) be expected to reform the abuses at present existing in the Local Administration, and thus ameliorate the condition of the Mahommedan and Jewish populations here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BAKER.

No. 329.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 272.)
Belgrade, September 14, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the protest addressed by the inhabitants of Yeni-Bazar to Sir A. H. Layard, and inclosed in his Excellency's despatch to your Lordship No. 691 of the 3rd ultimo, I have the honour to report that, if the delimitation of that portion of the Servo-Turkish frontier proved unfavourable to Ottoman interests, the Porte and its officers are alone to blame. Long before the Boundary Commission reached the section of the frontier referred to in the above protest, Captain Anderson, R.E., the British member of the Commission, pointed out to his Turkish colleague the necessity of consulting the inhabitants and collecting information as to the exact site of Kanilug (Caïnligh). This friendly warning would seem to have been disregarded, for the line of frontier had already been decided upon when the deputation of the Turkish inhabitants of that part of the country presented themselves to the Commission, and their contention as to the true position of the Kanilug mentioned in the Treaty of Berlin was at once rejected as being quite inadmissible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 330.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 274.)
Belgrade, September 17, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, the copies of two despatches and a telegram addressed to me by Mr. Vice-Consul Baker, on the subject of the maltreatment of the Jewish population at Nisch.

The gravity of the charges brought against the Servian Government is such that I have taken upon myself to bring them officially under the notice of the Servian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 330.

Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. Gould.

Nisch, September 2, 1879.

Sir,

REFERRING to my telegram of yesterday, and your reply of same date, I beg to inform you that I deem it my duty to report to you the condition of the Jews here generally, and not only of the particular person referred to in our telegraphic correspondence.

The Jews here, as a rule, are intelligent, industrious, and frugal, though the Servians charge them with being avaricious, and averse to military service and to the payment of taxes. These charges appear to me to have so much foundation:—

When the Jews lend money, they frequently demand 25 per cent. per annum interest; but the security is not unfrequently doubtful, and it should be borne in mind that the normal rate of interest here is 12 per cent. per annum, and that house property is supposed to yield at least 25 per cent. interest. It will therefore be seen that, when a man builds a house with borrowed capital, he does not pay more as interest than he would as rent if he took the house on lease. And, of course, no one is compelled to borrow money at any given rate of interest, that being here, as elsewhere, a pure matter of contract.

It is certainly true that the Jews are averse to military service; but they justly complain that war brings them nothing but insecurity for person and property. They avoid military service by becoming or remaining subjects of some foreign Power, generally Austria.

In the same way they generally avoid the payment of the poll-tax and some other taxes which Servian subjects are liable to pay.

So far the Servian complaints; the Jewish grievances appear to me to be far more substantial. Within the last few days many Jews have come to me, and, with tears in their eyes, appealed to me for protection, protesting that they cannot sleep at night from fear for their purses and property. I believe their fears are exaggerated; but there is doubtless too much ground for them, and the exaggeration is only natural, considering the gross maltreatment the Jews received at the hands of the Servian officials and soldiery in December 1877 and January 1878, when Nisch was surrendered by the Turks, and when Prince Milan was residing in the konak. There is no room for doubt that they were plundered and tortured on the most frivolous pretexts. As an instance of this, I may quote the case of David Abram Mandel, whose statement I have taken from his own lips, which statement, signed by him in my presence, I beg to inclose.* I have made strict inquiries into the matter, and see no reason whatever to doubt the accuracy of his statement, and his personal appearance certainly corroborates what he says about his illness for two months after being beaten by order of the then Prefect of Nisch.

The two houses referred to in my telegram of yesterday are on the left bank of the Nisheva, near to the Prince's konak. One is occupied by Izak Sarvata, his children and grandchildren—in all, sixteen persons; the other, by Bolisa Caleph and

* It has not been considered necessary to forward this communication, as the robberies of the Prefect and his cruelty were adjudged by the Servian Government so highly criminal, that he was condemned to death, and was, in accordance with this sentence, executed for his crimes.

family—ten persons. They are two-storey houses, and much more substantial than many houses which have not been condemned as unsafe. But they stood in the way of a street improvement, and I incline to the opinion that that is the reason they have been condemned. The law enables the authorities to demolish dangerous buildings at once, whilst the expropriation law falls short of such a power with regard to houses required for street improvements.

The owners of such houses have the right to retain them intact for five, ten, or twenty years, according to their degree of substantiality. It seems to me that the Jewish grievances arise not so much from the law as from its bad administration. I do not think any communion, composed entirely of Christian Servians, can do justice in a matter in which Jews are interested. And a Commission in this country exercises the powers, and is supposed to exercise the discretion and justice, of a judge and jury.

On the 6th August last a fire broke out in the Jewish quarter, not without suspicion that it was caused by an incendiary. Two days later the President of the Town Council ("Obshtina") was heard to say of a certain Austrian Jew, "He had better turn Servian subject, or, perhaps, his house may be burned like the Rabbi's." The Jews fear that this is a threat which will be executed unless they submit to Christian imposition, or unless they obtain protection from some foreign Power.

Several Austrian Jews have been recently compelled, by threat of sequestration of their goods, to pay taxes to which only Servian subjects are liable.

One of the Jews who have applied to me for protection, viz., a widow, who has five children, wished to write out her complaint, and thrust it into Prince Milan's carriage as he drove through the streets; but I, of course, deprecated any such proceeding, which might easily provoke very serious disturbances.

In accordance with the instructions contained in your telegram I called on the Prefect yesterday, and protested against the treatment to which the Jewish population here is subjected. He replied that all was done in accordance with the law, that the inhabitants of the condemned houses must quit them, but that they would receive compensation. I may observe with reference to this explanation, that the law is not so much to blame as the partial administration of it, which obtains with the Prefect and the various Commissions. If the inhabitants of these condemned houses be expelled I see no means of their obtaining shelter, for so many houses have been demolished here that lodging accommodation has become not only exceedingly dear, but so scarce as to be practically unobtainable, especially by poor persons with large families. As to compensation, I very much fear that it will be of a mere nominal character, *e.g.*, the value of the old materials, or about 5 per cent. of the value of the houses as they stand.

The precarious position of the Jews here at the present time may be well illustrated by a remark dropped by a Christian merchant, in a conversation I had with him a few days ago. He said, "Ah! you see the Jews keep themselves very quiet at present, because they do not yet know what more they have to expect." Though, as I have said above, I believe the fears of the Hebrew population to be exaggerated, there can be no doubt that they have in the past suffered both in person and property, and that they have been even recently threatened with fire, with distress of goods ("executive"), as a means of compelling them to become Servian subjects, to enter the army, and to pay poll-tax. This is, of course, in addition to their principal grievance of the partiality of the Prefect and other officials, and of the Commissions.

As to remedies, it is, of course, obvious that the law stands in need of amendment, but immense relief would be given to both Turks and Jews if the Prefect were removed, and his place supplied by a better educated and a more honourable man.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BAKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 330.

Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. Gould.

Nisch, September 10, 1879.

Sir,

AS a supplement to my despatch on the condition of the Jewish population here, I beg to report the following facts:—

About the month of July last the local authorities of Nisch levied loan contributions for municipal purposes on the wealthy inhabitants, including the Christian Archbishop and the Jewish Rabbi. The Rabbi refused to pay the contribution demanded of him (500 ducats), on the ground that he is a French subject, and so not liable to these contributions.

Soon after, viz., on the 6th August, the Rabbi's house, valued at £ T. 2,000, takes fire, and is burnt down, with ten or twelve neighbouring houses, and much of his furniture is, in the confusion, stolen.

The Jews connect these two events,—the refusal to pay the 500 ducats and the subsequent fire,—and allege that the one was the ultimate cause of the other. I am unable to obtain positive evidence either for or against this theory, but so far as my information and evidence go the fire is not beyond suspicion of incendiarism, and the Jews live in fear of similar outrages.

Another grievance the Jews have is that, under the Servian rule, they are compelled to close their shops on Sundays and the numerous Servian festivals (in addition, of course, to their own Sabbath); and that market-day, which under the Turkish régime was Monday, is now changed to the Jewish Sabbath, *i.e.*, Saturday.

I think this grievance is a substantial one, as in this country market-day is by far the most important business-day in the week, the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages all coming in on that day to sell their produce and make their purchases. And as to holidays, the Jews, being industrious and frugal, regard them as mere hindrances to business.

Under the present arrangement the Jews lose from their business the best day in the week,—market-day,—Saturday, *i.e.*, 52 days per annum; all Sundays, *i.e.*, 52 days per annum; and all Servian feasts, *i.e.*, nearly 50 days per annum; in all, two-fifths of the year. The Jews are, of course, under a greater disadvantage than their Christian fellow-citizens, inasmuch as the latter have the exclusive benefit of market-day—Saturday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BAKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 330.

Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September* 16, 1879.

THE daily denial of justice to Jews and Turks continues in spite of my expostulations with local authorities, who are influenced not only by race-hatred, but often by bribery, especially with regard to the demolitions for street improvements. Servian Government cannot be aware of the scandalously corrupt state of Local Administration under present Prefect.

No. 331.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 275.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 17, 1879.

THE Minister of Foreign Affairs, though he has repeatedly bound himself in honour to get the Jewish Emancipation Act passed before the close of the present year, is now of opinion that new taxation and gloomy harvest prospects have so soured the temper of the country that the success of the Bill in the Great Skuptchina would be very problematical.

His Excellency, however, will summon the Great Skuptchina together immediately, should the Powers make a point of it, but he cannot undertake the responsibility of guaranteeing the success of the measure at the present crisis. Without questioning his Highness' or M. Ristich's sincerity, both of whom undoubtedly intend to redeem their pledges, and are only influenced in their present course by home considerations, it would be useless to disguise the fact that a delay, in so much as it will afford a greater opportunity for discussion, will in all probability stir up a stronger opposition to the Bill.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 332.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 63. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, September 14, 1879.*

THE modifications in the Organic Law of Crete voted by the General Assembly, and subsequently sanctioned by the Porte, have been now nearly all carried out, or are in a fair way of being carried out. These changes having been enumerated in my despatches No. 28 of the 17th March and No. 51 of the 30th June, it will be unnecessary for me to recapitulate them here.

The judicial bodies have just been renewed by the popular election of the local Judges, two of whom now sit in the petty Courts instead of four, and the Procureurs and Juges de Paix have been duly appointed by the Governor-General. One hitch in these proceedings has occurred in the case of the Caza of Sphakia. In my despatch No. 41 of the 5th May I had the honour to explain to your Lordship that the Sphakians objected to Vamos, in Apokorona, being the head-quarters of the Sandjak of Sphakia (of which the caza of that name forms a part), as they desired that it should be at the little town of Sphakia itself, where, indeed, it was fixed for a few months after the insurrection of 1866-68. As their wish in this matter has not been gratified, they have refused to send Deputies to join in the elections of the Judges constituting the Court of Law of the sandjak. All the efforts of the Vali to reconcile the Sphakians to the existing arrangement having proved unavailing, his Excellency, on the repeated solicitations of the Mutessarif, contemplates sending round by sea a battalion of regular troops to occupy a point in their territory, with the object of showing them that the Government cannot tolerate insubordination. No opposition would be made to their landing, but, as there is no intention of using coercive measures, it is not likely that the presence of the troops will bring the inhabitants to a better mind.

The Courts of Law having, with the above single exception, been reorganized on an improved model, it requires but the arrival of the new President of the Court of Appeal, who is expected here next week, to set an example of a pure administration of justice. The selection of M. Scaltsouni for that post has not hitherto been approved by the Minister of Justice, but it would be short-sighted policy in the Porte longer to delay its sanction of an appointment the wisdom of which cannot be disputed. It was becoming intolerable that the highest judicial post in the vilayet should continue to be occupied as heretofore by a Cadi, who one day presided at the Mehkeme, where Mussulman religious law was administered, and on the next at the Appellate Court, where the legal procedure was conducted on principles often at variance with that law.

The more Photiades Pasha is becoming acquainted with the leading persons forming the Administration, the more wisely he is conducting the affairs of the island. He is gradually withdrawing his confidence where it had been too hastily given, and he spares neither time nor energy in the successful transaction of public business.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 333.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 27. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, September 15, 1879.*

I HAVE just telegraphed to your Lordship that disturbances are reported to have taken place at Nevesinje, in the Herzegovina, and that there has been a collision between the troops and the Christian peasants. I can obtain no further details for the moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 334.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 28. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, September 15, 1879.*

IN spite of sundry prognostications to the contrary, the occupation by the Austrian troops of the positions assigned to them in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar seems to have been effected so far without bloodshed or any opposition on the part of the population.

The frontiers of the sandjak were crossed on the 8th instant. On the 9th General Obadits, with his brigade, was at Priboj. The same day he made a reconnaissance in the direction of Nova-Varos, and at an interview he had with the Commander of the Turkish troops the line of demarkation between the Austrian and Turkish forces was fixed.

According to later news, however, the district occupied by the Austrians was not yet evacuated by the Turkish troops, and it appears that they were awaiting the arrival of the Turkish Commissioner, Husni Pasha, from Serajevo, to definitively settle the line of demarkation.

Plevlje (Taslidza) was occupied by the brigade of General Killié on the 10th, and the Austrian troops are said to have been well received by the inhabitants. The Turkish Commander, Mustapha Pasha, who went out to meet them, endeavoured, under pretence of orders to that effect from the Porte, to dissuade the General from entering the town with his troops, and wanted the Turkish garrison to remain; but General Killié insisted energetically on its departure, which took place, I believe, the following day.

On the 12th His Royal Highness the Duke of Würtemberg, with his staff, also reached Plevlje.

The occupation of Prjepolje has not been officially confirmed, but I have little doubt of the truth of the report.

Although the occupation of Bjelopolje (Akova) has been renounced for the present, I hear on good authority that the Austrians intend to advance this year as far as Brdarevo, situated on the Lim, about midway between Prjepolje and Bjelopolje.

The Turkish Commissioner, Husni Pasha, was to have left Serajevo on the 6th instant with the Duke of Würtemberg, and his baggage had even been sent on, but, in consequence of a telegram received at the last moment from the Porte, he did not accompany His Royal Highness. He left Serajevo, however, for Visegrad on the 10th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 335.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 75.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, September 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that a meeting of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission was held yesterday at Therapia, when the question of the thalweg of the Danube as a frontier-line of Bulgaria, which had been left in the stage described in my despatch No. 72, was finally settled. On coming to a vote, four Commissioners, namely, the Austrian, French, Italian, and Turkish, were for the true thalweg, with the reservation that the islands should remain as assigned to the two banks by the Treaty of Adrianople. The German and Russian Commissioners, like myself, had at first reserved their votes. The majority being thus declared, I, in accordance with the views expressed in my No. 72 on the alternatives which might present themselves, voted with it, and the other Commissioners did the same. The Articles (of the Act of Delimitation) embodying and completing this decision were then framed and agreed to.

The Articles of the same Act which delimit the Macedonian and Servian frontiers

of Bulgaria were also agreed to. The Act and the maps, with the trace of the frontier-line, will be ready by the 17th, and will be signed on the 20th.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 336.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 76.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, September* 14, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Major Ardagh and Lieutenant de Wolski returned from the frontier yesterday. Captain Jones had arrived two days before, with the maps of the Rhodope frontier of Bulgaria, which, as already reported in my despatch No. 73, had been anticipated by the work of the Russian topographers. I think there can be little doubt, as a perusal of the Protocols containing the very scanty and unsatisfactory information given on the subject on all occasions by the Russian Commissioner will tend to show, that but for the dispatch of the English party to the frontier the Commission might still be indefinitely awaiting the completion of the Russian maps.

The work of Major Ardagh's party is very carefully and accurately done, and would have thoroughly answered the purpose.

I beg to take this occasion of inviting your Lordship's attention to the circumstance that Lieutenant de Wolski was not under my orders, but, with the ready and obliging concurrence of Major Gordon, his immediate superior, placed himself, in the most prompt and willing manner, at my disposal, and has done most effective and valuable work throughout the business.

The reports conveyed through Uskub and Salonica of molestation offered to the party appear to have been greatly exaggerated, and in some respects unfounded. The hindrances offered were not such as necessarily to show ill-will; and, on the arrival of the party at Kustendil and Samakov, Bulgarian militia, and, at the latter place, officers also, were ordered to accompany them as escort.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 337.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 77.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, September* 16, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you of the present state of the question of a military route for Turkey through the Sandjak of Sophia, which formed the subject of my telegram of the 13th and of your two received in reply.

As your Lordship is aware, from my despatch No. 49, I think the privilege could in no case be of value to Turkey, and that, in the present state of her relations with Bulgaria, the question had better, therefore, be avoided. But your communications to me on the subject, before and since that despatch was written, had conveyed to me the impression that Her Majesty's Government was desirous of insisting on the concession, and I have accordingly opposed, on all occasions, the desire of the Russian Commissioner to exclude the subject from our discussions. The stage at which, when last discussed, the question was left, was such as to induce the belief, shared, I imagine, by all the Commission, that at the final meeting a particular route, already indicated, would be agreed to by all except the Russian, and that steps would thereupon be taken, similar to those which you have suggested, for bringing the conclusion arrived at to the knowledge of the Bulgarian Government.

But now I find, unexpectedly, that some Commissioners, probably with the concurrence of their Governments, are desirous of shelving the question, and contemplate making a proposition that it shall not be put to a vote.

I think I may assert that all are convinced that Russia is bound by the Agreement of her Plenipotentiaries, and that none have been in the least influenced by the

counter-arguments of the Russian Government or the Russian Commissioner. The desire to shelve the question arises from the belief that it is not for the advantage of Turkey to enforce the concession; and the proposition will be made with the view of avoiding a vote, which, in case a majority should not be in favour of the concession of the route, might be held to incapacitate Turkey from ever renewing the demand for it.

In case of coming to a vote, the French and Italian Commissioners, and not improbably the German, would abstain from voting. The Russian Commissioner has stated that he will not join in any measures taken with regard to this question. The Austrian Commissioner seems, on the contrary, to have received explicit instructions to press the matter to a decision. Whether the Austrian Government, since the advance of its troops towards the Macedonian frontier by the occupation of Novi-Bazar, sees any possible future military advantage for itself in the concession of the route to Turkey, I do not know, nor can I perceive what the advantage would be.

The Turkish Government would appear to have been, up to a late date, quite unmindful of the matter, for their Commissioner had taken no steps about it when on the Macedonian frontier, and when I mentioned it to him on his return, gave me no reason to think that he had ever considered it, or received any instructions on it; nor has he ever offered any arguments in favour of the concession in the discussions. He was not even, at first, prepared (though I do not find the incident recorded in the Protocols) to indicate the route desired by Turkey when invited to do so; but he now appears to have been instructed to insist on it.

Thus, of the six Commissioners left (in the absence of the Russian), the French and Italian, and probably the German (who seems to have been enjoined, as a rule, to abstain, at first, from declaring his vote, and, except when the majority is decided, to avoid pronouncing against Russian views), would abstain from voting. Thus a majority for the concession would be impossible.

It was in these circumstances I asked your Lordship by telegram whether I might, in the interests of Turkey, abstain from voting. I had thought, on obtaining your permission to act according to the circumstances, of communicating the state of the case as I have described it to the Turkish Commissioner, who might possibly thereupon prevail with his Government to leave the matter as it now stands, reserving the power of reopening it when it might seem expedient to do so; but, having now received your following telegram, I shall, before taking any other steps, proceed to confer with Colonel Clarke, with a view to a subsequent proposal of the kind suggested, though I scarcely anticipate a full consideration of the circumstances that any advantage will follow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 338.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 78.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, September* 15, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward Protocols Nos. 29 and 30 of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 336.

Protocole No. 29.—Séance tenue à Thérapia à l'Hôtel d'Angleterre, le 21 Août, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp,
M. le Capitaine Podstawski.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha,
Simon Effendi (Papasiau),
Le Commandant Hassan Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure et demie.

Le Protocole No. 28 est lu et adopté.

M. le Général Hamley remet à la Commission les levés dressés par le Major Ardagh en exécution de la décision prise à la séance du 26 Juillet.

M. le Colonel de Ripp observe que, si ces travaux comblent heureusement la grande lacune qu'offraient les cartes Russes dans le voisinage de la route de Kustendil à Egri-Palanka, ils laissent subsister une autre lacune dans les environs du Sinianova-Czuka. Il conviendrait, selon lui, de compléter les cartes existantes, sur une étendue de 3 kilom. carrés environ, par le levé de la partie manquante du versant méridional de la chaîne.

Après un échange d'observations entre le préopinant et les Commissaires de Grande-Bretagne, d'Italie et de Russie, ce dernier s'engage à envoyer au Général Jarnefelt une dépêche pour le mettre au courant de la situation, et il exprime l'espoir que pleine satisfaction sera donnée dans une dizaine de jours au désir du Colonel de Ripp.

Une question du Commissaire d'Allemagne amène *M. le Général Hamley* à donner quelques détails sur les travaux de ses officiers. Ils ont mesuré une base à la chaîne et fixé au théodolite les points principaux de leur canevas ; leurs levés se raccordent parfaitement avec les cartes Russes, bien que celles-ci n'aient pas été mises à contribution. "Les opérations topographiques," ajoute le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne, "ont failli être entravées par des manifestations de paysans Bulgares armés, qui, au nombre d'une quarantaine, ont fait mine de vouloir entourer le campement des topographes Anglais ; les mouvements de ceux-ci ont été souvent gênés par l'opposition faite par des postes Bulgares à leur entrée sur le territoire de la Principauté." Sa tâche terminée, le Major Ardagh a demandé au Général Hamley par une dépêche télégraphique s'il n'y avait pas lieu de dresser un levé expédié de la chaîne du Rhodope entre le Cadir-Tépé et le sommet voisin du village de Pastera ; il a ensuite transporté son camp dans les environs de Samakov, pour entreprendre ce nouveau travail qui pourrait être utilisé par la Commission, s'il lui parvenait avant les plans Russes.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow donne à son tour quelques renseignements sur l'état d'avancement des travaux des topographes Russes. Ils ont terminé leurs opérations dans les parties précisément levées par le Major Ardagh ; ils ont de plus dressé la carte du terrain à gauche de la Struma entre Musov-Vrh et l'Ai-Gedük.

Le Président clôt cet incident en remerciant, au nom de ses collègues, M. le Général Hamley des dessins exécutés par les officiers Anglais. Il met ensuite sous les yeux de la Commission le texte de l'Acte de Délimitation de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare communiqué, avec les dessins à l'appui, par le Président de la Commission de Serbie, et rappelle que cet acte doit trouver place dans l'instrument diplomatique fixant les limites de la Bulgarie.

M. le Colonel de Ripp, après avoir fait observer qu'il n'a pas été question jusqu'ici d'annexer une carte de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare au dit instrument, demande à qui, de la Commission de Serbie ou de la Commission de Bulgarie, incombe le soin de communiquer au Gouvernement Bulgare le tracé de la frontière commune aux deux Principautés.

M. le Colonel de Bogolubow fait pareille demande pour les deux cartes des environs de Chipka et les deux copies de l'Acte du 14 Août, 1879, que la Commission destine aux deux parties intéressées dans les Commissions de Bornage—la Bulgarie et la Roumélie.

Le Président dit que d'après les usages diplomatiques il appartient au Suzerain seul de recevoir et de transmettre à une Principauté tributaire les décisions d'une Commission Internationale de Délimitation. Aucun doute n'est donc possible dans le cas envisagé par le Colonel Bogolubow ; la question posée par le Colonel Ripp a trait à un cas différent, puisque l'un des deux Etats est indépendant et n'a pas de représentant au sein de la Commission. Mais celle-ci, n'étant accréditée auprès d'aucune Puissance territoriale, ne peut non plus directement s'adresser à aucun Etat. Les Actes et copies dressés par le Secrétariat pour servir aux Gouvernements des Principautés de Serbie et de Bulgarie et de la Province de Roumélie Orientale resteront donc déposés aux archives jusqu'au jour où la Puissance ayant qualité pour les communiquer aux parties intéressées les en retirera.

Son Excellence Tahir Pasha déclare que la Commission excéderait ses droits, si elle préparait un huitième exemplaire de l'Acte du 14 Août pour la remettre directement à la Bulgarie.

Plusieurs Commissaires désirant s'éclairer auprès de leur Cabinet sur la procédure à suivre, l'incident en reste là.

Le Président invite alors la Commission à poursuivre la discussion des Articles concernant la frontière du Danube.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie formule de nouveau ses réserves au sujet de cette frontière. Il estime que les Gouvernements, en autorisant leur Commissaire à substituer le thalweg à la rive droite du fleuve, s'étaient proposé le maintien du *statu quo ante bellum* sur une frontière qui n'avait été l'objet à Berlin d'aucun débat. Tel était du moins le sentiment du Cabinet Italien. Celui-ci connaissait les termes du Traité d'Andrinople, qui indiquait le thalweg comme ligne-frontière, mais il n'avait pu prévoir que la Commission donnerait à ce mot une signification qui, tout en étant la plus propre, ne serait pas celle donnée par les délimitateurs de 1830. La situation est donc tout autre qu'il ne l'avait cru. En attendant l'arrivée des nouvelles instructions qu'il a sollicitées, M. le Colonel Orero croit pouvoir proposer que la Commission, se laissant guider par une pensée de haute courtoisie, ne veuille pas résoudre la question avant d'entendre un Délégué Roumain. Il ajoute que le Gouvernement de la Principauté pourrait à bon droit se plaindre d'avoir été dépouillé d'une partie de sa souveraineté, sans qu'il lui eût été loisible de soumettre à la Commission les objections que soulevait le nouveau tracé de sa frontière.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp observe qu'en supposant même considérables les modifications apportées au *statu quo ante bellum* par l'adoption du thalweg pour ligne-frontière, les Gouvernements avaient le droit de rectifier la première définition qu'ils avaient donnée et que la Roumanie aurait pu d'ailleurs leur faire parvenir ses doléances avant qu'ils aient pris une nouvelle décision. Il ne concevrait pas que la Principauté s'adressât maintenant aux Commissaires liés par leurs instructions ; si cependant le Commissaire d'Italie exprimait au nom de son Gouvernement le désir que la question demeurât un certain temps en suspens afin de rendre possible un échange d'idées entre les Cabinets, il s'empresserait de lui donner satisfaction.

M. le Colonel Orero répond qu'il ne connaît pas encore l'avis de son Gouvernement. Il ne s'est pas d'ailleurs borné à lui exposer les inconvénients que présente le nouveau tracé de la frontière ; il lui a également fait valoir les raisons militant en sa faveur, et montré par exemple les avantages que la Roumanie aurait à acquérir, au prix même d'une perte de territoire, une ligne-frontière incontestée et incontestable. Il persiste à croire qu'il n'y a que deux solutions, ou maintenir l'ancienne frontière, ou entendre avant toute décision un Délégué Roumain ; et puisque l'opinion de la majorité

n'est pas favorable à la première, il propose la seconde dans un but de courtoisie à l'égard de la Roumanie.

M. le Commandant Lemoyne dit que, de tous les arguments présentés à l'appui de la proposition du Colonel Orero, il ne peut retenir que celui de courtoisie. Il ne votera donc pas contre la dite proposition, mais s'abstiendra.

Après un débat auquel participent tous les Commissaires, le Président met aux voix la proposition du Colonel Orero, pour laquelle vote son auteur, les autres Commissaires ayant déclaré reserver leur vote ou s'abstenir.

La séance est levé à 5 heures, et la Commission s'ajourne au 28 Août.

(Signé) WEDEL,
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original:

(Signé) P. PODSTAWSKI.
G. MARMIER.
F. VICINO PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 338.

Protocole No. 30.—Séance tenue à Thérapia à l'Hôtel d'Angleterre, le 28 Août, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp,
M. le Capitaine Podstawski.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha.
Simon Effendi (Papasian).
Le Commandant Hassan Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure et demie.

Le Protocole No. 29 est lu et adopté.

Le Président fait part à la Commission des doutes qu'il a conçus sur la position exacte du point de jonction des trois frontières Turco-Serbe, Turco-Bulgare, et Serbo-Bulgare. Il faudrait à son sens chercher ce point, non pas au Crni-Vrh, mais 4 kilom. plus au sud, au Mont Palaritza. La Commission de Serbie aurait dans ce cas englobé dans la frontière Turco-Serbe une section de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare, et il y aurait par suite lieu pour la Commission de Bulgarie de formuler dans l'Acte de Délimitation certaines réserves au sujet de la section Crni-Vrh—Palaritza, pour éviter que le même segment de ligne-frontière fût tracé de deux manières différentes. Malheureusement,

les démarches jusqu'ici tentées par le Secrétariat dans le but d'éclaircir ces doutes n'ont pas encore abouti.

Après cette observation, *le Président* propose à la Commission de poursuivre la discussion de la frontière Danubienne. *Les Commissaires d'Allemagne* et *d'Autriche-Hongrie*, n'ayant pas encore reçu les instructions qu'ils ont sollicitées à la suite de la proposition faite par le Commissaire d'Italie, demandent l'ajournement à la prochaine séance. L'ajournement est prononcé.

Le Président, pour épuiser l'ordre du jour, met alors en discussion la question de la route militaire par le sud du Sandjak de Sophia, déjà agitée aux séances des 2 et 16 Août (Protocoles Nos. 24 et 28), et ajournée à deux reprises à huitaine. Il demande au Commissaire de Russie s'il est maintenant en état de participer au débat.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow répond que trois Cabinets seulement ont jusqu'ici répondu aux ouvertures faites par le Cabinet Impérial de St. Pétersbourg, et qu'il ne peut pas en conséquence accepter encore la discussion.

Le Président observe que la Commission n'a pas à se préoccuper de l'issue des négociations pendantes: elle peut rechercher sur la carte la route qui au point de vue technique répond aux indications du Protocole No. 17 du Congrès, en subordonnant sa résolution au maintien par les Puissances du droit de passage octroyé à la Turquie par le dit Protocole.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow réplique que, tout en étant disposé à prendre part à un échange d'idées sur la question, il ne saurait intervenir dans un débat officiel avant l'issue des négociations ouvertes par son Gouvernement. Si la discussion s'engageait malgré cette déclaration, il s'abstiendrait de signer le Protocole.

Le Président demande à la Commission de décider s'il convient d'attendre l'issue peut-être lointaine des négociations pendantes, ou d'aborder immédiatement l'examen technique de la question.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie se prononce pour ce dernier parti, afin d'abréger la procédure: les négociations pendantes entre les Gouvernements pourraient aboutir alors à un règlement définitif de la question. Il pense qui si la Commission subordonnait sa décision au maintien par les Puissances du droit accordé à la Turquie par le Protocole No. 17, le Colonel Bogolubow ne pourrait élever aucune objection sérieuse contre la poursuite du débat.

Le Commissaire de Russie dit que toute affaire traverse deux phases—l'échange d'idées et la décision. L'échange d'idées demande beaucoup plus de temps que le vote d'une résolution; il pourrait, sans inconvénient, avoir lieu en dehors des séances officielles; car il craindrait d'être lié plus qu'il ne le voudrait par une signature apposée au bas d'un Protocole.

Le Président observe que les Commissaires n'ont pas à traiter la question de fond; mais que la discussion de la question technique doit suivre son cours, à moins que la partie intéressée ne déclare y renoncer.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow conteste à la Commission le droit de s'occuper de la route militaire.

Le Président l'invite à motiver son opposition.

Le Commissaire de Russie répond que chaque membre doit être juge de la convenance d'un débat: la majorité ne pourrait évidemment l'obliger à considérer un sujet étranger aux attributions de la Commission. La question pendante revêt pour le moment à ses yeux précisément cet aspect.

M. le Général Hamley exprime son étonnement de voir le Commissaire de Russie proposer de discuter d'une façon non-officielle un sujet à l'ordre du jour. Il ne conçoit pas un tel mode de délibérer. Il demande qu'on mette au vote la question de compétence.

Le Président invite de nouveau le Commissaire de Russie à décliner les raisons qui déterminent à ses yeux l'incompétence de la Commission. Il lui demande s'il persiste à croire que le Protocole No. 17 ait visé une autre Commission que la Commission Européenne de Délimitation de la Bulgarie.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow répond qu'il ne veut pas s'appesantir sur la question de compétence, et qu'il a précédemment développé les diverses raisons qui l'empêchent de participer à la délibération.

Le Président observe de nouveau que le sujet de la discussion a un caractère purement technique; que l'abrogation par les Puissances du principe visé dans le Protocole No. 17, entraînerait *ipso facto* l'annulation d'une décision qui équivaudrait à la mise en application de ce principe.

M. le Général Hamley ajoute que les Gouvernements, ayant conservé le droit de réviser l'œuvre de la Commission, pourraient toujours, s'ils s'entendaient pour revenir

sur la concession précédemment faite, retrancher de l'Acte de Délimitation l'Article ayant trait à la route militaire.

M. le Colonel Orero désirerait savoir du Commissaire Ottoman si son Gouvernement ne croirait pas opportun de se borner pour le moment à réserver les droits que lui confère le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès, et à renoncer à poursuivre le débat au sein de la Commission.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha répond qu'il ne peut accéder à cette suggestion.

M. le Commissaire de Russie maintenant sa distinction entre une séance officielle et une séance non-officielle, et se déclarant de nouveau dans l'impossibilité de prendre part à une discussion officielle, *le Président* l'invite pour la troisième fois à formuler les motifs sur lesquels il fonde sa contestation de compétence.

M. le Commissaire de Russie répond que sans doute il pourrait toujours invoquer la non-identité avec la Commission de Délimitation de la Bulgarie de la Commission Européenne dont il est parlé dans le passage précité du Protocole No. 17; mais qu'en supposant même cette raison écartée, la Commission est obligée par le texte même du Protocole No. 17 à ne procéder qu'avec le concours des autorités locales.

Le Président fait remarquer au préopinant que la Commission doit s'être déclarée compétente et saisie de l'affaire, avant d'entrer à son sujet en négociations avec qui que ce soit.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp ajoute qu'avant d'entamer des pourparlers, il faut avoir une base de négociations. Il réserve d'ailleurs son opinion sur le caractère pratique des dites négociations.

M. le Commissaire de Russie dit qu'à son sens la Commission pour être compétente devrait s'adjoindre certains éléments absents. Il conviendrait, d'après le passage précité du Protocole No. 17, de convoquer les autorités locales Bulgares, de poser devant elles la question, et de leur demander de la résoudre au mieux des intérêts locaux. Telle aurait été, d'après son opinion, l'idée même des Plénipotentiaires: ils voulaient suppléer par l'introduction de cet élément local au manque de données qu'ils possédaient sur la question.

Le Président observe que nulle part dans le Traité ni dans les Protocoles du Congrès il n'est question de donner à la Bulgarie une représentation au sein de la Commission Européenne; la prétention du Commissaire de Russie, d'obliger celle-ci à n'aborder la discussion qu'en présence des Délégués Bulgares, ne peut pas passer pour une interprétation du Traité.

Le Commissaire de Russie objecte que la Commission pourrait s'écarter de la vraie voie si elle négligeait les intérêts locaux; il ne concevrait pas qu'elle pût imposer une décision sans avoir au préalable consulté les Représentants naturels de ces intérêts.

Le Président rappelle au préopinant que la Commission ne prend pas de décisions exécutoires, mais qu'elle émet simplement des avis.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow continue à demander que la Commission s'adresse aux autorités visées par le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès.

M. le Colonel de Ripp observe que si la Commission se trouvait placée dans les mêmes conditions que le Congrès, n'ayant qu'une carte imparfaite entre les mains, elle pourrait éprouver le besoin de recourir aux lumières des autorités locales. Mais il en est différemment, la zone en question ayant été parcourue en entier par la délégation de l'ouest; chacun de ses membres a pu reconnaître la route qui répond aux indications du Congrès. La Commission n'a d'ailleurs qu'à désigner cette route, qui est unique et n'est plus à tracer, étant construite d'une frontière à l'autre. Il ne voit donc aucun sujet de négocier avec les autorités Bulgares. Car la réglementation difficultueuse de la faculté concédée à la Turquie par le Protocole No. 17, ne regarde pas la Commission, mais doit être débattue directement entre la Turquie et la Bulgarie.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow déclare persister dans son opposition, pour ne pas affaiblir l'obligation faite à la Commission par le Protocole No. 17 d'entrer en négociations avec les autorités locales.

Le Président rappelle les trois questions posées au début de la discussion (Protocole No. 24), dont la première était la suivante: La Commission Européenne de Délimitation de la Bulgarie est-elle, oui ou non, la Commission Européenne dont il est question dans le passage précité du Protocole No. 17 du Congrès? Il circonscrit de nouveau le débat à la solution d'une question technique, il réserve le droit des Gouvernements de maintenir ou d'abroger le principe dont la Commission recherche en ce moment l'application éventuelle; et sur la demande de plusieurs Commissaires, il invite dans ces conditions la Commission à se prononcer par un vote sur sa compétence.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de Grande Bretagne, et de Turquie répondent par oui à la question posée, les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Italie, et de Russie réservent leur vote, les deux premiers se ralliant ensuite à la majorité.

Le Commissaire de Russie rappelle alors à la Commission que d'après sa déclaration insérée au Protocole No. 14, il a ordre de s'abstenir de voter dans toutes les questions de principe sur lesquelles il n'y aurait pas unanimité d'avis: le débat actuel portant selon lui sur une question de ce genre, il ne saurait suivre la Commission dans la voie où elle s'engage. Si ultérieurement (Protocole No. 19) il s'était rallié à une proposition du Commissaire de Grande Bretagne, disant qu'à l'avenir le vote de la majorité déciderait sur tous les points contestés, c'est qu'il s'agissait alors, selon lui, exclusivement des frontières de la Principauté, et qu'aucune question grave ne lui apparaissait en perspective. La question agitée maintenant est tout-à-fait nouvelle; il doit se tenir sur une réserve absolue.

M. le Général Hamley croit le moment venu pour le Commissaire de Turquie de répondre à la question précédemment posée par le Colonel Orero, en faisant connaître la route sur laquelle il revendique un droit de passage pour les troupes Ottomanes.

A ce moment, le *Commissaire de Russie* déclare qu'il cesse d'assister officiellement à la séance, et qu'il ne signera pas la partie subséquente du Protocole.

(Signé) "A. Bogolubow."

M. le Général Hamley déclare à son tour ne pouvoir accepter cette réserve.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha, répondant à la question posée, demande à la Commission de déclarer que la route militaire, satisfaisant aux données du Protocole No. 17 du Congrès, est la route Tatar-Bazardjik, Banja, Samakov, Dubnitza, Kustendil, Egri-Palanka, avec embranchement de Dubnitza sur Djuma.

M. le Colonel de Ripp juge utile d'accorder à la Turquie une communication militaire d'Egri-Palanka à Djuma par Kustendil et Dubnitza, vu qu'il n'existe aucune route pouvant servir à des mouvements de troupes à travers la Macédoine. Mais il se demande s'il convient de la prolonger jusqu'à la frontière de la Roumélie Orientale à cause des garnisons Ottomanes qui seraient établies sur cette frontière.

Cependant, après la lecture par le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne du passage précité du Protocole No. 17 du Congrès, après le rapprochement fait par M. le Commandant Lemoyne de ce texte et de celui de l'Article XVI du Traité de Berlin, M. le Colonel de Ripp n'insiste pas, et accepte la proposition du Commissaire Ottoman.

Le Commissaire d'Italie dit qu'il ne peut pas perdre de vue les complications que pourrait entraîner la mise en vigueur des stipulations du Protocole No. 17. Aussi, tout en estimant fondée la demande de son Excellence Tahir Pacha, il aurait été heureux que la question eût été retirée de l'ordre du jour par le Commissaire Ottoman. Puisqu'il n'en a pas été ainsi, il serait d'avis de clore le débat par une résolution renvoyant le règlement de la question aux parties intéressées.

M. le Colonel de Ripp croirait une telle résolution contradictoire avec le vote par lequel la Commission s'est déclarée compétente. Il préférerait plutôt renvoyer la clôture du débat à l'issue des négociations entre les Cabinets.

M. le Major de Wedel pense que, du moment que tous les Commissaires à l'exception du Colonel Bogolubow semblent d'accord sur la route répondant aux indications du Protocole No. 17 du Congrès, la question pourrait, à tel moment qu'on le jugerait convenable, être résolue par un vote. Puisque la remise de l'affaire n'apporterait aucun retard à la marche des travaux de la Commission, pour donner aux négociations le temps d'aboutir, et afin d'éviter un refus de signature du Commissaire de Russie, il propose d'ajourner la décision.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Italie se rallient à cette motion.

M. le Général Hamley l'appuie, en disant qu'on pourra toujours procéder au vote, immédiatement après l'épuisement des questions figurant encore à l'ordre du jour.

L'ajournement est prononcé.

Le Président demande alors au Colonel Bogolubow s'il sera bientôt en état de remettre au Secrétariat le croquis relatif à la lacune existant dans les environs du Sinimova-Tchouka.

Cette question amène le *Commissaire de Russie* à rappeler qu'il a cessé d'assister officiellement à la séance.

M. le Général Hamley déclare que le Commissaire de Russie ne peut pas se

dépouiller de son caractère officiel et qu'à ses yeux il n'a pas cessé d'assister à la séance.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow dit que puisque sa présence dans la salle de délibération peut être mal interprétée, il va se retirer. Il dénie au *Commissaire de Grande Bretagne* le droit d'interpréter son attitude.

Le Président fait observer au préopinant que chaque membre d'une Commission a le droit de faire toutes ses réserves sur une délibération, mais qu'il reste présent à la séance.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow répond qu'il ne voulait pas quitter la salle des délibérations, à cause de l'intérêt que présentait une discussion entre Commissaires, mais surtout par raison de convenance.

Le Président clôt l'incident en invitant tous les membres à ne pas se départir de l'attitude conciliante qui a permis à la Commission d'arriver presqu'au terme de son mandat, et il prie le Colonel Bogolubow de fournir, s'il le peut, les renseignements qui lui ont été demandés.

Le Commissaire de Russie répond, d'une façon toute privée, qu'il n'a reçu aucune nouvelle communication du Général Jarnefelt.

La Commission se sépare à 5 heures, en chargeant le Président de la convoquer aussitôt après le retour du Major Ardagh, ou après l'arrivée des cartes Russes.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) P. POUSTAWSKI.
G. MARMIER.
F. VICINO-PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

No. 339.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 15, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Chehab Bey, my Turkish colleague, left last week for Batoum, in order to commence the demarcation of the frontier on the ground.

His instructions are to carry out the work from the Black Sea as far as a point to the south of Artwin, being that portion of the frontier determined by the Russo-Turkish Commission in regard to the trace of which the two Governments are in agreement.

On completion of that duty he is to return, pending the settlement of the dispute with regard to the trace of the frontier between Artwin and Nariman.

When taking leave, Chehab Bey said that he would keep me constantly informed of the proceedings of the Commission; the Turkish Government, according to a statement made to me by Safvet Pasha, having given him orders to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 340.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 604.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 18, 1879.

IT appears that the Herzegovino Pandours, or Frontier Guards (all Orthodox Slavs), who deserted in a body to Montenegro, as reported by Mr. Freeman in his despatch No. 19 of the 27th August, either from objection to the discipline to which they were subjected, or from the allurements of Slav emissaries, returned a few days ago, in numbers about 200 strong, to the neighbourhood of Nevesinje, where they plundered the inhabitants and committed all kinds of depredations.

They burnt down some Austrian watch-houses, and came in conflict with the troops, but when dispersed they quickly reunited. It was necessary for General von Dahlen to send eventually reinforcements from Mostar, by whom it is hoped that quiet will be soon completely restored.

The attitude of the population is described to be passive.

These Pandours are said to have been driven from Montenegro by orders of the Prince, who is said to have left Vienna very satisfied with the results of his visit, and therefore there is no reason to believe that he willingly created difficulties for the Austrian Government, since whatever his aspirations may be for the future, his observance of a correct attitude towards his powerful neighbour is at present a political necessity.

It is evident that, from time to time, till the Austrian authority firmly takes root in these wild countries, outbreaks such as the present one, and as that which took place lately at Hum in Bosnia, will be of occasional occurrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 341.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 607.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 20, 1879.

AFTER receiving your Lordship's telegram No. 129 of yesterday's date, I told Baron Calice of the fresh proposal made to you by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires on the part of his Government for the settlement of the Arab-Tabia question.

He said that the new proposal made to Her Majesty's Government is similar to the Russian answer to the Austrian note, which answer, his Excellency says, has been already communicated to your Lordship, and as it admits the principle contended for by Austria of a definitive decision by majority of votes, he cannot consider it as inacceptable.

It is the opinion of the Austrian Government, he observed, that the work of the original Commission, as well as that of the proposed technical Commission, should be laid before the Cabinets or Ambassadors, to enable them to arrive at their decision by majority of votes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 342.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 22, 1879.

AT a moment when Servia is endeavouring to adjourn solution of the Jewish question, and the Powers have not yet arrived at a decision, the approaching arrival at Belgrade of Count Tornielli on a special mission to recognize Servia appears most inopportune.

No. 343.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 22, 1879.

ACT and map of remaining part of frontier are fully signed, and will be sent by messenger to-morrow.

Turkish, Austrian, and British Commissioners have voted for military route.

French abstains. Italian is instructed to vote with majority. German awaits further instructions, which he expects immediately.

No. 344.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 23, 1·30 P.M.)

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September* 22, 1879.

WITH reference to military road through Sandjak of Sophia, Italian Commissioner reports in favour, and, notwithstanding adverse pressure of Russia, he has been instructed to vote for it.

Italian Commissioner appears under impression that English and French Governments attach no importance to it.

No. 345.

Mr. L. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 23, 2·20 P.M.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September* 23, 1879, 12·10 P.M.

M. RISTICH has communicated to me a copy of his note on the Albanian question. It is addressed to M. Christich at Constantinople, and not to Turkish Minister at Belgrade. All the Albanians are allowed to return except those who inhabited the left bank of the Toplitza. These quitted the country at their own request, partly at Government expense, and their lands have since been occupied by others.

No. 346.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 524.)
Foreign Office, September 23, 1879.

Sir,

IN reply to the observations which I had addressed to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, as recorded in my despatch to you No. 522 of the 19th instant, in regard to the recent proposal of his Government for the settlement of the Bulgarian frontier near Silistria, M. Bartholomei has repeated to me the substance of the communications which he has received from M. de Giers on the subject.

He states that the proposal is to send to the spot a special technical Commission, composed of civil engineers, to whom should be intrusted the task of ascertaining the point on the Danube to the east of Silistria which would be most suitable for the construction of a bridge.

The Report of this Commission would serve as a basis for the decision of the Cabinets, who would decide the question by a majority of votes, the Russian Government being willing to adopt this principle if their plan is accepted by the other Powers concerned.

M. Bartholomei was unable to inform me whether his Government would agree to the final vote being taken by the Ambassadors at Constantinople, but he pointed out that the principle of decision by majority being conceded, the question whether it should be put in practice, through the Representatives at Constantinople or by the Governments themselves, was a matter of detail.

M. Bartholomei, having further stated that his Government believed all the other Powers to be favourably disposed towards the proposal, and having urged the necessity of a speedy solution of the question, he has this day been informed that Her Majesty's Government are ready to assent to the mode of settlement above stated, on the understanding that, after having considered the reports submitted to them, the decision of the majority of the Cabinets with respect to the position of the frontier will be final.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 347.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 24.)

(No. 23. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, Albania, September* 11, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose Protocoles Nos. 20, 21, 22, and 23 of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission. The decisions arrived at in these Protocoles have already been alluded to in my despatches Nos. 18 and 19 of the 3rd and 9th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E., Commissioner.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 347.

Protocole No. 20.—Séance du 2 Août, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne —
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha.
M. le Consul-Général Danish Effendi,
M. Dagness Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 9 heures.

M. Danish Effendi présente à la Commission M. Dagness Effendi, Secrétaire de la Mission Ottomane.*

Le Président donne lecture d'une lettre en date du 1er de ce mois par laquelle le Premier Commissaire du Monténégro lui fait savoir que le Gouvernement Princier l'ayant appelé d'urgence à Cettigné, il a transféré ses pleins pouvoirs momentanément à M. Matanovich.

Le Président prie les Commissaires délégués par la Commisson de vouloir bien exposer les résultats de leur double travail.

Le Baron Kaulbars remet, avec un cahier de spécifications, un croquis, dressé en sa présence par le Capitaine Sauerwald ; il donne ensuite lecture du tracé qu'il a suivi :

"En commençant par le Skolio V. Krnci, qui reste au Monténégro, la frontière atteint en ligne droite et en se dirigeant vers le sud-sud-est la colline de Mercina, d'où elle suit la crête et la ligne de partage des eaux de la Muzina-Planina, jusqu'à un point nommé Gradac.

"De Gradac elle atteint en ligne droite, et suivant une direction nord-est, le grand rocher rouge, le 'Crwenj-Kamen' dans la vallée de Berdelica (Berdeluscca Bederla), dont elle suit le thalweg en le remontant jusqu'à la sortie de cette vallée près du

* Annexe 1 au présent Protocole.

moulin à eau Padskala (Mouschkin), qui se trouve à l'endroit où le Karingica-Potack s'unit avec le Megured-Potack.

"De Padskala la frontière suit en remontant le Karingica-Potack jusqu'au contrefort qui descend de la colline Rasingica vers le sud-est. Elle suit la crête de ce contrefort jusqu'au sommet de la dite colline, puis se dirige vers une seconde colline du même nom, et descend de cette dernière, se dirigeant vers le nord-ouest du thalweg du Pelinkowich-Potack, qu'elle suit en le remontant jusqu'à l'endroit où ce potack touche la route qui va de la mosquée V. Gorana au Kaminitzky-Most.

"Quittant en cet endroit le Pelinkowich-Potack, elle atteint en ligne droite, et se dirigeant vers le nord-ouest, le rocher Placa-Garanski, situé sur la crête de Kodra-Pelinkowichi, d'où, en ligne droite, en suivant une direction nord-nord-est, elle passe par un jeune taillis pour atteindre un rocher situé sur l'extrémité ouest d'une rangée de collines qui suit la rive droite du Megured-Potack. De ce rocher elle se dirige vers le Kamenitzky-Most (pont des Merkovich's) qui reste aux Merkovich's, pour atteindre le Megured-Potack à 20 mètres en aval de ce pont.

"De ce point elle suit et remonte le thalweg du Megured-Potack jusqu'au grand contrefort qui descend vers l'ouest de la Montagne Osfoj (Kokat), au bout duquel se trouve un grand rocher près d'un moulin à eau, qui reste aux Anomales.

"Remontant ce contrefort, la frontière atteint le sommet de l'Osfoj (Kokat), et suit la crête de la montagne pour atteindre le sommet Wranja-Gnesdo (Krüta), d'où elle descend en suivant la crête d'un contrefort de cette dernière montagne, pour atteindre, suivant une direction est-sud-est, l'embouchure du Krüta-Potack, dans le Midia-Potack.

"De ce point elle remonte le thalweg de Midia-Potack jusqu'à la source Gonia (Gorana), située sur le versant est du Royadée, d'où, en ligne droite, et traversant un taillis, la frontière se dirige vers le nord pour atteindre une grande pierre, se trouvant près d'un mur de pierre et vers le chemin qui va de Kaliman à Midia.

"De cette pierre elle se dirige vers le nord-nord-ouest pour toucher un point inaccessible, se trouvant sur les rochers à pic qui bordent le plateau de Lipourniak (Mraured, Bratowica), et qui porte le nom "Kokotowa-Spila" (sentier de la poule), d'où, en remontant dans une direction est, elle atteint le bord du plateau, près d'une source nommée 'Nérandja.'

"De Nérandja elle se dirige vers le nord-est pour atteindre la crête principale au premier sommet situé à l'est du Mraured (Bratowica)."

Le Capitaine Sale fournit également une carte et des spécifications, qui permettent à la Commission de reconnaître le tracé qu'il a suivi, sans qu'il soit besoin d'autres explications.

La Commission donne acte de la réception de ce double tracé au Colonel Kaulbars et au Capitaine Sale, en les remerciant de leur travail. *Le Président* remercie en même temps le Capitaine Sauerwald et le Lieutenant Caillard qui ont pris part à cette excursion.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie émet la déclaration suivante :—

"J'ai l'honneur de déclarer qu'à la suite d'instructions que j'ai reçues de mon Gouvernement à l'égard de la question de Merkovic, et de la direction générale de la frontière conduisant de la Mer Adriatique au Lac de Scutari, j'accède à la ligne exposée par M. le Commissaire Britannique dans la séance du 27 Juillet, savoir, le tracé qui, à partir de l'écueil près de V. Kruci, se rattache en ligne droite à la crête principale entre Megured et Kalimed (Kaliman)."

A la suite de cette communication, le *Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne* propose à la Commission de ne pas laisser en suspens sa décision sur les deux tracés qui viennent de lui être soumis.

Le Président, ayant soumis cette motion à la Commission,

Le Baron Kaulbars rappelle que dans la 17e Séance il avait demandé à la Commission de revenir sur une décision prise à la séance précédente concernant la proposition du Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi, modifiée par l'amendement du Capitaine Sale, et que la Commission avait déclaré ne pas pouvoir revenir sur un vote déjà acquis. Il demande en conséquence que ce principe soit maintenu également dans le cas présent.

Le Président observe que la Commission, dans les circonstances, ne revient pas sur un vote acquis sur une question précise, mais sur la décision de ne pas délibérer ni voter.

La Commission décide qu'elle se prononcera sur le choix d'un des deux tracés.

Ce vote est émis par 6 voix (celles des Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Turquie), contre 2 (celles des Commissaires de Russie et de Monténégro).

Le Commissaire d'Italie fait observer toutefois qu'il lui est, quant à présent, impossible de donner son vote sur ce point, attendu qu'ayant informé son Gouvernement de la décision qui a été prise dans l'avant dernière séance, il doit attendre les instructions qu'il a provoquées. Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi déclare donc qu'il se réserve jusqu'à l'arrivée de ces instructions.

Le Commissaire de Russie ajoute d'autre part qu'après le vote unanime de la Commission dans sa séance du 26 Juillet, il a remis la question des deux tracés entre les mains de son Gouvernement, et que dès lors il ne peut prendre part à aucune discussion sur ce sujet.

Le Capitaine Sale propose alors que la Commission ajourne son vote jusqu'à ce que ceux des Commissaires qui attendent des instructions à cet égard les aient reçues; il prie en même temps le Commissaire de Russie de vouloir bien informer son Gouvernement que la Commission va prendre une décision sur la question qu'elle avait réservée, et de solliciter en même temps des instructions qui lui permettent de prendre part au vote.

Le Commissaire de Russie observe qu'il a déjà des instructions, et qu'il croit n'avoir rien à changer à ce qu'il vient de dire.

Le vote étant ajourné, la Commission passe à la discussion des travaux à exécuter de l'autre côté de la crête de la Kraina jusqu'au lac.

La Commission décide à l'unanimité de se rendre Mardi prochain à Martici.

Le séance est levée à 11 heures.

Fait à Scutari le 2 Août, 1879.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
MATANOVICH.
KAULBARS.
RIZA.

Annexe 1 au Protocole No. 20.

Scutari, le 31 *Juillet*, 1879.

Monsieur,

Son Altesse le Prince Nicolas m'ayant envoyé l'ordre de retourner pour quelques jours à Cettigné, je m'empresse de vous faire connaître que jusqu'au jour de mon retour, M. Nico Matanovich est muni de tous les pleins pouvoirs du Premier Commissaire Monténégrin.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) SIMO POPOVIC

A M. le Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
Président de la Commission Européenne pour la
Délimitation du Monténégro.

Inclosure 2 in No. 347.

Protocole No. 21.—Séance du 7 Août, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
M. le Baron d'Estournelles de Constant.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. l'Adjudant-Major Tabri Bey,
M. le Consul-Général Danish Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 9 heures.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

La Commission décide de voter sur le choix d'un des deux tracés qui lui ont été soumis dans la dernière séance par ses Délégués, conformément à leurs instructions, savoir:

1. Le tracé fait par le Colonel Kaulbars, et suivant les contours de la communauté de Merkovich;*

2. Le tracé fait par le Capitaine Sale, et suivant autant que possible la Carte Autrichienne, de Skolio-Kruci au Mraured;†

Le Président ayant recueilli les voix,

Le Commissaire d'Italie déclare qu'il aurait préféré attendre les instructions qu'il a sollicitées de son Gouvernement sur ce point spécial, mais que la Commission ayant décidé de passer au vote, il ne se séparera pas de la majorité.

Les Commissaires de Russie et du Monténégro s'abstiennent en s'en référant à leur déclaration de la précédente séance.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne, reconnaissant la valeur du principe adopté par la Commission dans une de ses premières séances, et par suite duquel la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien doit être considérée comme document complétementaire lorsque le texte même du Traité de Berlin est douteux, se rallie au second tracé.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, et de Turquie votent également pour ce tracé.

Le Commissaire d'Italie se rallie au vote de la majorité.

En conséquence, le résultat du vote est que le second tracé est adopté à la majorité de 6 voix—celles des Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Turquie.

Il y a deux abstentions.

Sur le désir exprimé par la partie intéressée, et conformément au principe adopté par la Commission, le premier tracé sera également joint, avec les spécifications qui s'y rattachent, au présent Protocole.

* Annexe 1 au présent Protocole.

† Annexe 2 au présent Protocole.

Le Président soumet à l'examen de la Commission les tracés de la deuxième partie de la frontière de la crête du Mraured ou lac de Scutari.

Trois projets sont présentés.

Par *M. le Premier Commissaire Ottoman* un projet fait et signé par le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey et l'Adjudant-Major Tabri Bey, délégués par la Commission.* Ce projet, qui sera joint au Protocole avec le tracé et les spécifications qui l'accompagnent, est écarté à la majorité de 7 voix.

Le Commissaire de Russie fait remarquer à la Commission, relativement à ce projet, qu'il s'écarte notablement de la ligne proposée par les Commissaires Ottomans eux-mêmes dans une des premières séances. Il s'agissait alors d'une ligne partant des environs de Megured et rejoignant à peu près en ligne droite le village de Sestan et l'ilot de Gorica-Plack, tandis que le tracé que nous venons d'avoir sous les yeux suit la crête principale, passe par le sommet du Runia, et ne quitte la crête, pour se diriger sur Gorica-Plack, qu'à partir d'un point situé bien au delà et au nord-ouest de Runia.

Deux tracés restent en présence:

L'un fait par le Capitaine Sale, avec la collaboration du Capitaine Sauerwald et du Lieutenant Caillard;† l'autre fait par le Colonel Kaulbars et le Capitaine Sauerwald.‡

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie donne lecture d'une note ci-annexée, par laquelle il motive son vote.§

Danish Effendi déclare que la question de Gorica-Topal ayant été soumise à la Sublime Porte, à la suite de réserves faites par son Excellence Riza Pacha, la délégation Ottomane ne saurait participer à une discussion sur ce sujet; elle doit cependant faire observer que dans les tracés contradictoires, dressés par M. le Colonel Kaulbars et M. le Capitaine Sale, il semble que l'on ait perdu de vue, et la partie stratégique qui intéresse vivement la sécurité future de Scutari, et la question de race et de religion, qui avait été l'objet d'une motion spéciale au Congrès de Berlin par son Excellence Carathéodory Pacha, Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Le Premier Commissaire du Monténégro lit le document qui est annexé au Protocole.‖

Le Commissaire de Russie, d'autre part, fait une déclaration qui forme l'Annexe 8 à ce Protocole.

M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, répondant aux dernières observations des Commissaires Monténégrins et Russe, admet que le Traité de Berlin, relativement à la frontière entre la crête et le lac pourrait être interprété dans le sens du tracé soumis par M. le Baron Kaulbars; il insiste néanmoins sur son propre projet parce que:

La Commission s'est décidée depuis longtemps à considérer la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien comme explicative du Traité de Berlin dans les cas douteux; or, dans le cas présent le texte du Traité laisse beaucoup de place au doute; donc, pour résoudre la question de cette partie de la frontière, il faut se rapporter à la Carte Autrichienne. Le lever du terrain entre le lac et la crête des montagnes de Kraina montre assez exactement la direction et la forme de la crête dans cette carte; en effet, si on avait eu l'intention au Congrès de Berlin de faire passer la frontière par la cime indiquée dans le projet de M. le Baron Kaulbars, on n'aurait pas manqué de l'indiquer. Mais puisqu'il en a été autrement, et que sur la dite carte cette frontière franchit la crête par un point éloigné de plusieurs kilomètres de plus au nord, on ne peut que suivre ce tracé autant que les accidents topographiques le permettent.

Il fait observer aussi que dans l'Annexe 1 au Protocole No. 10 du Congrès de Berlin, sur lequel l'Article XXVIII est basé, on trouve les expressions suivantes relativement à la partie de la frontière en question: "Elle (la frontière) suivra ensuite les limites actuelles entre la tribu des Kruci-Drakolivici d'un côté et la Kücka-Kraina, ainsi que les tribus de Klemente et Gruda, de l'autre, jusque dans la plaine de Podgoritza, d'où elle se dirigera sur Plavnica, laissant à l'Albanie les tribus montagnardes des Klementi, Gruda, et Hoti. Ensuite traversant le lac, la frontière passera près de l'ilot de Górica-Topal, et elle traversera la montagne pour aboutir à la mer à la pointe de Kruci, laissant à l'Albanie le district de Dulcigno." Si la frontière est déterminée selon le projet de M. le Commissaire de Russie, elle ne traversera pas la montagne en

* Annexe 3 au présent Protocole.
† Annexe 4 au présent Protocole.
‡ Annexe 5 au présent Protocole.
‖ Annexe 6 au présent Protocole.
¶ Annexe 7 au présent Protocole.

quittant Gorica-Topal qu'après avoir fait un grand détour, tandis qu'il est évident qu'elle doit la traverser presque directement.

Il fait observer aussi que le Pertubala est une position stratégique d'une haute importance, parce qu'il domine complétement le Tarabos, qui lui-même domine immédiatement la ville de Scutari, et qu'il est le seul point où puissent être établies les positions défensives de Scutari, dans le cas où le Pertubala serait cédé aux Monténégrins. Le Pertubala offre une belle position pour les troupes, étant dans un pays fertile et bien approvisionné d'eau; mais en tous cas, elle a une valeur offensive pour le Monténégro, et défensive seulement pour la Turquie; et en l'attribuant au Monténégro, on lui donnerait une position dominante qu'il n'était évidemment pas dans l'intention du Congrès de Berlin de lui donner.

En réponse aux objections formulées par M. le Capitaine Sale, le *Commissaire de Russie* fait remarquer que, au point de vue stratégique, la ville de Scutari est bien plus efficacement défendue par la position du Mont Tarabosh, ainsi que par les collines de Gorica, sur le coude que fait la Boyana. Devant cette portion s'étend en effet un terrain vaste et assez uni qui oppose l'attaque de grandes difficultés, tout en offrant les avantages d'une position défensive.

Le Commissaire de France observe qu'à son sens, si le mot "directement" du paragraphe 4 de l'Article XXVIII du Traité de Berlin, n'implique pas forcément la ligne la plus courte entre Gorica-Topal et la crête, il ne l'exclut pas non plus.

Le Commissaire d'Italie pense que la phrase du Traité "de Gorica-Topal elle atteint directement les sommets de la crête, d'où elle suit la ligne de partage des eaux entre Megured et Kalimed," doit être divisée en deux membres séparés, s'expliquant ainsi :—

1. De Gorica-Topal elle atteint le sommet de la crête, directement, c'est-à-dire par la ligne la plus courte.

2. Elle suit la crête jusqu'à ce qu'elle arrive au point désigné entre Megured et Kalimed.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie est à même de déclarer que le Congrès n'avait aucune connaissance de la ligne la plus courte, mais que la ligne directe doit être prise dans le sens du tracé de la Carte Autrichienne.

A la demande de *MM. les Commissaires de France et d'Italie*, le *Colonel Kaulbars* consent à rattacher sa ligne du point 24 à la cime extrême du Mraured; il ajoute qu'il fait à regret cette concession, parce qu'elle a pour effet de séparer une portion de la communauté des Merkovich's.

Le Président consulte la Commission, et met les deux tracés aux voix.

Le tracé du Baron Kaulbars est adopté par 4 voix—celles des Commissaires du Monténégro, de France, d'Italie, et de Russie; contre 3 voix—celles des Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Allemagne et d'Angleterre, donnés au tracé du Capitaine Sale.

Le Commissaire de Turquie s'abstenait.

En conséquence, le tracé du Colonel Kaulbars est adopté.

En présence de ce résultat, le *Commissaire Ottoman* fait la déclaration suivante :—

"Riza Pacha croit devoir observer que la délégation Ottomane n'a pu voter aujourd'hui, pour être logique et pour fortifier la présentation de son tracé spécial, cependant elle se réserve de voter en faveur du tracé de M. le Commissaire Britannique dans le cas où il rencontrerait l'agrément du Gouvernement Ottoman. Quant au tracé du Colonel Kaulbars, Riza Pacha considère qu'il s'écarte complétement du texte du Traité de Berlin, et ne tient pas compte du tracé de la Carte de l'État-Major Autrichien."

Le Président donne acte de cette déclaration au Commissaire Ottoman, en observant que le vote qui vient d'avoir lieu, n'en reste pas moins acquis quant à présent. Si MM. les Commissaires Ottomans reçoivent de nouvelles instructions, ils en informeront la Commission, qui avisera.

Le Président, passant à une autre question, donne lecture de deux lettres qu'il a échangées avec son Excellence Riza Pacha relativement à l'acceptation de Gorana.

Les Commissaires Monténégrins prennent acte de cette assurance donnée par le Premier Commissaire Ottoman; toutefois, ayant appris que l'autorité ayant laissé à Vali Gosana des zaptiés, ils déclarent ne pouvoir même admettre la présence à Gorana, d'aucun zaptié, ces derniers étant des soldats et représentant l'autorité militaire; et ils demandent formellement que les avant-postes Turcs qui sont venus occuper Kruci, et qui, d'après les informations qui leur sont parvenues de leur commandant à Antivari, se trouvent sur le versant de la Majoura, en deçà, et du côté des Merkovich's, aient à se replier en arrière sur le versant opposé, et ne s'avancent dorénavant en aucune façon

sur la crête de la montagne sus-mentionnée, et cela jusqu'à la décision définitive des Grandes Puissances. Telles sont les déclarations que, par ordre de leur Gouvernement, ils sont chargés de communiquer à la Commission.

Danish Effendi observe que le maintien du *statu quo* n'entraîne pas un arrêt absolu dans l'administration du pays, et que la présence de ces zaptiés est l'effet d'une mesure de simple police et non d'occupation.

Le Commissaire de Russie désire que les troupes Turques, se trouvant actuellement sur le versant nord de la Majoura-Planina, reçoivent l'ordre de se retirer de l'autre côté de la crête; il ajoute qu'il est à souhaiter que les deux parties s'abstiennent d'occuper la crête jusqu'à la décision définitive des Puissances.

Les deux parties tombent d'accord sur ce point.

Le Baron Kaulbars rappelle, en ce qui concerne Gorana, qu'il a déjà demandé aux deux parties l'observation du *statu quo*; qu'il est d'autant plus important de le maintenir dans ce cas, qu'il existe un tracé alternatif. En ce qui concerne les zaptiés, il ne verrait pas un inconvénient réel à ce qu'ils restent à Veli-Gorana, si leur nombre n'était pas toutefois augmenté; mais il serait préférable d'adopter, une fois pour toutes, et en principe, qu'il n'y ait occupation d'aucun côté ni d'aucune sorte; dans le cas présent cela serait d'autant plus facile, que l'administration Ottomane a des points voisins, tels que Selin Kovitch et Vukici par exemple, où pourraient rester ses zaptiés sans inconvénient.

Le Commissaire Monténégrin déclare qu'il s'associe entièrement à cette observation.

Riza Pacha observe que le vote qui a eu lieu aujourd'hui relativement à la ligne de V. Kruci et Kalimed Megured, abstractions faites de toutes autres considérations, autorise suffisamment la délégation Ottomane à maintenir la gendarmerie Turque à Gorana et aux alentours de ce village, conséquemment elle ne peut adhérer à la mise en demeure de MM. les Délégués du Monténégro.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne pense que la Commission ne peut pas utilement s'occuper de la question.

La Commission, après avoir de nouveau exprimé le désir que le *statu quo* soit maintenu, décide de se réunir demain à 9 heures pour étudier la question de Slavinica.

La séance est levée à midi.

Fait à Scutari le 7 Août, 1879.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
POPOVIC.
KAULBARS.
RIZA.

Annexe 6 au Protocole No. 21.

Déclaration au Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie.

En établissant la nouvelle frontière du Monténégro entre le Lac de Scutari et Megured Kalimed, le Congrès de Berlin a arrêté qu'elle doit atteindre directement les sommets de la crête.

L'expression "directement" ne saurait souffrir d'autre interprétation que celle d'une ligne droite dans le sens absolu, ou relativement droite, quand il s'agit de transporter du papier au terrain un tracé de frontière. Si ce tracé doit relier directement deux points topographiques donnés, la ligne à établir entre ces deux points ne saurait être qu'une ligne droite, surtout lorsque l'un deux, se trouvant à l'extrémité de la ligne, est très-rapproché d'un troisième qu'il s'agit de gagner immédiatement après (sommets de la crête—partage des eaux entre Megured et Kalimed), et lorsque la direction générale du tracé est directe.

La Commission, pour faire la frontière entre le lac, la crête, et Megured Kalimed, a le choix entre deux projets de tracé, présentés par M. le Commissaire de Russie d'une part, et par M. le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne de l'autre. Un troisième projet, présenté par la délégation Ottomane, adopte un îlot différent de celui que la Commission a accepté dans sa 4e Séance, comme point d'attache sur la rive

occidentale du lac. Il devra être soumis à l'appréciation des Cabinets, mais il ne saurait être discuté par la Commission.

Le tracé de M. le Commissaire Russe, en partant de Gorica-Topal (Carte Autrichienne), atteint la crête par la ligne la plus courte sur le sommet le plus rapproché de la chaîne principale, qu'il suit après avoir formé un angle, pour aboutir, par le moyen d'un détour considérable, à l'est de Kalimed à la limite de Merkovic, avec laquelle il se confond jusqu'à la mer.

Le tracé de M. le Commissaire Britannique se dirige de Gorica-Topal par une ligne relativement droite vers les sommets de la crête bordant le lac au-dessus de cet îlot. Après les avoir atteints, il suit le partage des eaux au-dessus de Megured-Kalimed et passe entre ces deux villages pour gagner la mer en ligne presque directe.

L'Article XXVIII du Traité de Berlin, pour indiquer que la frontière Monténégrine doit suivre une ligne courte, désigne cette direction nettement à deux reprises (délimitation du côté de l'Herzégovine par rapport à la frontière entre la Cèpelica et les hauteurs bordant le Trebiajica, puis à la direction de la ligne de Volnjak à la Piva).

De plus, il distingue entre *direct* et *court*, vu que dans une autre phrase relative à la délimitation Herzégovinienne, il s'exprime ainsi: "A partir de ce point (Orline) la frontière s'avance directement vers le nord-nord-est, puis elle descend par la ligne le plus courte sur la Piva."

Si le Congrès s'était proposé de donner à la ligne entre le Lac de Scutari et la crête la direction la plus courte, il n'aurait pas hésité à se prononcer clairement en se servant des expressions qu'il a adoptées là, où il voulait la suivre. Ayant employé le mot "directement," il a exprimé son intention de donner à cette ligne une direction droite. Sous ce rapport donc, le tracé de M. le Commissaire de Russie ne semble pas être correct.

En outre, ce tracé suit la crête à partir de la cime du Pet-Ublje jusqu'à la limite de Merkovic.

L'Article XXVIII ne dit pas que la frontière doit se diriger par la crête, mais il prescrit qu'elle doit atteindre directement les sommets de la crête, d'où elle suivra la ligne de partage des eaux entre Megured et Kalimed. Sous ce rapport-là, il faut se rappeler que ce même Article, pour bien rendre son idée quand il dirige la frontière par une crête, l'indique en disant par exemple, que "de Sékalaro elle se dirigera par les crêtes de la Mokra-Planina," ou bien qu'elle "suivra la chaîne principale formant le partage des eaux entre le Zim, le Drin, et la Cicona."

M. le Commissaire de Russie, en partant de l'opinion que c'est la crête entre le Pet-Ublje et le Mraured qui forme le partage des eaux dont il est question dans le Traité, s'éloigne de ce dernier, qui n'entend pas qu'on suive le partage des eaux formé par la chaîne principale dans toute son étendue; mais qui parle d'un partage entre deux points très-rapprochés, se trouvant tous les deux sur le même versant de cette chaîne, laquelle, en outre, au-dessus de Megured et Kalimed, court derrière les sommets que la ligne doit atteindre entre ces deux points indiqués nominativement. Par contre, le tracé de M. le Commissaire Britannique, sauf quelques déviations, occasionnées par la configuration du terrain, tient compte de toutes les exigences du texte par rapport à la ligne entre Gorica-Topal et la crête. Il est direct, parce qu'il suit une ligne droite autant que les accidents topographiques le permettent; il atteint les sommets de la crête, d'où il suit le partage des eaux au-dessus de Megured-Kalimed; il passe entre ces deux villages; il coïncide enfin avec le tracé du Congrès.

Il renferme aussi toutes les conditions pouvant faire supposer qu'il sera agréé par les Cabinets, et le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie en l'adoptant, se permet de le recommander vivement à messieurs ses collègues.

Annexe 7 au Protocole No. 21.

Déclaration du Premier Commissaire Monténégrin.

Les Commissaires Monténégrins se basant sur l'Article XXVIII du Traité de Berlin, qui dit: "à partir de Gorica-Topal la frontière atteint directement les sommets de la crête," demandent en conséquence à la Commission de vouloir bien fixer la frontière suivant la ligne la plus courte entre le point d'attache déjà fixé sur le lac et les sommets de la crête. En effet, si l'on ne considère qu'un point, il est évident que tous les rayons partant de ce point comme centre et dans les divers sens, sont autant

de lignes directes. Mais entre un point et une ligne il ne peut y avoir évidemment qu'une seule ligne directe, et c'est la plus courte, ou autrement dit, c'est la perpendiculaire qui va de ce point à la ligne. Toutes les autres lignes sont des lignes obliques. Or, il est facile de s'assurer, non-seulement par l'inspection des levers du terrain, qu'ont fait de ce côté MM. les membres de la Sous-Commission, mais aussi à simple vue, que, la ligne partant de Gorica-Topal, et aboutissant un peu à l'est du Mont Pet-Ouballah (sept puits) est précisément celle qui répond à l'Article susmentionné, et sépare en même temps le petit district d'Ostrôsse de celui d'Arbanesse. Nous proposons que la frontière déterminée d'un côté par le groupe d'îlots désigné sous le nom de Gorica-Topal et de l'autre par le Mont Ouballah, passe par le milieu du canal formé par les deux îles Girgou et Ghiat d'un côté, qui appartiennent aux Ostrôsses, et l'Ile Arbanesse de l'autre, appartiennent au district du même nom, et atteigne la rive du lac au pied du monticule appelé Grdac, pour se diriger au pied de la hauteur Stranica; d'où, en passant entre le village Cekaï (du district d'Arbanesse) et le village Perasehi (du district d'Ostrôsse), elle atteindrait les sept puits, qu'elle traverserait pour atteindre la crête principale à l'est du Pet-Ouballah, d'où elle suivrait la ligne de partage des eaux jusqu'à sa rencontre avec les limites de la communauté des Merkovich's.

Cette ligne qui, dans le tracé que nous venons d'exposer, se confond presque avec la ligne directe précédente, et qui offre de plus l'avantage de séparer jusque dans leurs moindres détails les possessions des Ostrôsses de celles des Arbanesses, rencontrera, nous l'espérons, l'appui général des membres de la Commission, par le double caractère qu'elle présente de répondre rigoureusement au texte du Traité de Berlin, et de se confondre avec la ligne même qui a jusqu'ici séparé les possessions des deux districts susmentionnés.

Annexe 8 au Protocole No. 21.

Déclaration du Commissaire de Russie.

Ayant fait dans les journées des 14 et 15 Mai, et en compagnie de MM. le Capitaine Sauerwald et Nico Matanovich, une étude du terrain entre le Lac de Scutari et la crête des montagnes qui séparent ce lac de la Mer Adriatique, je pense que la frontière, à partir de Gorica-Topal, devrait se diriger vers le Mont Pjat-Uballa.

Le Traité s'exprime ainsi: "Et à partir de Gorica-Topal elle (la frontière) atteint directement les sommets de la crête, &c."

J'appuie particulièrement sur l'expression "directement" parce que je ne puis l'interpréter d'aucune autre manière que celle de vouloir atteindre le sommet de la crête le plus rapproché de Gorica-Topal.

Or, le lever du terrain fait par les membres de la Sous-Commission Topographique a démontré que le Pjat-Uballa, en effet, était le sommet le plus rapproché de Gorica-Topal. Que ce point élevé se trouve précisément sur la crête principale des montagnes qui divisent le lac de la mer est suffisamment clair pour tous ceux qui l'ont assisté, et qui ont pu constater que sur tout leur parcours le Mont Tarabosh y inclus, ces montagnes se précipitent rapidement vers la mer et les plaines de la Bayana, sans détacher un seul contrefort dans cette direction.

D'un autre côté, la ligne proposée coïncide à peu près avec les limites actuelles des deux communes: les "Ostrass" et les "Arbaness." Les Ostrass occupent le terrain entre le lac et la crête, s'étendant vers l'est au-delà des ruines du monastère, jusqu'au Monticule Stranica, et c'est à cette commune qu'appartiennent les îlots Gorica-Topal (Top-Halwa ou Planick), Vogel, Giogut, et Ghiat. En revanche, c'est la Commune des Arbaness qui occupe le reste du terrain vers Zogaï, et c'est à elle qu'appartient en même temps l'îlot Arbaness (à l'est de Ghiat).

Sur la crête, et tout près du sommet Pjat-Uballa, se trouvent sept grands puits creusés et des pâturages, la jouissance desquels est divisée entre les deux communes. Sur un point si élevé, et dans un pays où l'eau est rare en été, ces puits ont une valeur toute particulière pour l'abreuvage des troupeaux qui paissent sur la montagne.

Pendant notre reconnaissance du 5 Août, la Commission a pu s'apercevoir que tous les villages du littoral en question ont leurs sentiers descendant vers le lac. Ainsi, celui des Martici aboutit au sud-ouest de Gorica Top-Halwa (Planick) à l'endroit où se trouvent deux petits konlas et un puits. Celui des Ostrass au sud du même îlot ayant aussi deux konlas, qui jadis servaient à la défense de ce sentier; et celui des Arbaness, au fond de la petite baie, qui se trouve au sud-ouest de l'îlot Arbaness, et gardé de même par un konla. Il me semble donc juste et équitable que

le tracé-frontière tienne compte de ce fait, et laisse les sentiers dans la possession des villages auxquels ils appartiennent, d'autant plus que les habitants du littoral, pour la plupart étant pêcheurs, se servent de ces sentiers comme le seul moyen de communication avec le lac.

Tenant compte de toutes les considérations que je viens de faire, je propose que la nouvelle frontière, tout en se dirigeant de Gorica-Topal vers le Mont Pjat-Uballa, devrait, en détail, poursuivre le tracé suivant:

En passant par le détroit entre les Ilots Gorica-Topal (Tap-Halwa ou Planick) et Vogel, la frontière suit une direction sud pour atteindre la rive du lac à l'endroit où deux petits koulas sont bâtis au pied du sentier des Osstross. De ce point elle devrait monter par un ravin au plateau, et tout en suivant les limites actuelles entre les communes Osstross et Arbaness, passer par le Monticule Stranica; remonter le contrefort entre les villages Cekaj et Pérasi, passer par les sept puits, qui devraient rester divisés entre les deux communes, et atteindre le sommet du Mont Pjat-Uballa.

Le Traité de Berlin poursuit en ces termes: "D'où elle suit la ligne de partage des eaux, &c."

Conformément à ce texte, la frontière devrait, en quittant le Mont Pjat-Uballa, suivre la crête principale, passer par le sommet le plus élevé du Mont Bajca-Vrk (Coschara) et, laissant à la Turquie les petits champs du village Bajca, qui se trouvent sur le plateau de cette montagne, se diriger vers le Sommet No. 24, à l'est du Mraured (Bretorvica), pour y atteindre la ligne indiquée par moi dans le Protocole No. 20.

Inclosure 3 in No. 347.

Protocole No. 22.—Séance du 8 Août, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
M. le Baron d'Estournelles de Constant.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjudant-Major Sabri Bey,
M. le Consul-Général Danish Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 9 heures.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Le Commissaire Britannique dépose toutefois, en signant le dit Protocole, la motion suivante:—

"La question du second vote d'hier a été régulièrement posée et acceptée par la Commission; mais il me semble que les conditions dans lesquelles elle a été posée n'ont pas permis à la délégation Ottomane de donner sa véritable opinion. En effet,

quoique MM. les Commissaires Ottomans n'aient pas voulu voter pour ma proposition, afin de ne pas préjuger de leur réserve, il n'est pas permis de douter qu'ils étaient contre la proposition Kaulbars. La question avait été posée comme pour choisir entre la proposition du Colonel Kaulbars et la mienne; puisque MM. les Commissaires Ottomans n'ont pas pu voter pour une proposition, il leur était impossible de voter du tout; je demande donc que chaque tracé soit mis au vote séparément."

Le Commissaire d'Italie croit que la délégation Ottomane, après avoir voté pour son projet, n'avait pas le droit de voter sur un autre, mais que, dans les conditions où nous nous trouvons, c'est le devoir des parties désintéressées de sauvegarder de toutes manières les droits d'une des parties intéressées; il déclare en conséquence se rallier à la motion du Commissaire Britannique.

Le Commissaire de Russie appuie les premières paroles de son collègue d'Italie, c'est-à-dire que celui qui a voté pour une proposition ne peut voter sur une autre, et pour cette raison il considère que la majorité a été justement fixée; il s'oppose à tout dérangement.

Danish Effendi observe que la Commission, tout en ayant voté contre le projet Ottoman, a participé aux autres votations; la délégation Ottomane était de son côté pleinement en droit de rejeter le tracé du Baron Kaulbars, en votant contre, comme aussi de réserver son vote pour le projet du Capitaine Sale, qu'elle considérait comme un de moyen-terme entre les tracés des deux parties intéressées. C'est dans ce but qu'elle a subordonné son vote définitif aux instructions ultérieures que la Sublime Porte donnera à ses Commissaires si elle le juge utile à ses intérêts.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie appuie la motion du Capitaine Sale, dans cette pensée qu'il faut laisser aux parties intéressées surtout la plus grande latitude pour les votes.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne adhère à toute proposition de conciliation.

Le Président met aux voix la proposition du Capitaine Sale, à savoir: "Chaque tracé sera-t-il mis au vote séparément?"

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Turquie votent pour; les Commissaires du Monténégro et de Russie votent contre.

Le Commissaire de France se rallie à la majorité.

En conséquence, la proposition est adoptée à la majorité de 6 voix.

Le Président met aux voix le tracé du Colonel Kaulbars.

Le Commissaire de Russie déclare qu'il maintient son vote d'hier.

Le Premier Commissaire du Monténégro fait la même observation.

Le résultat est donc le suivant:—

Les Commissaires de Russie, du Monténégro, d'Italie, et de France votent pour le tracé.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Angleterre, et de Turquie votent contre le tracé.

Le Bureau constate 4 voix pour et 4 voix contre.

Le Président met aux voix le tracé du Capitaine Sale.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, et d'Angleterre votent pour le tracé.

Les Commissaires d'Italie, de France, du Monténégro, et de Russie votent contre le tracé.

La délégation Ottomane réserve son vote: elle a déjà télégraphié à ce sujet à la Sublime porte, et se propose de faire connaître à la Commission les instructions qui lui parviendraient en faveur de ce tracé.

Le Bureau constate 3 voix pour et 4 voix contre.

Le Commissaire Britannique demande qu'il soit constaté que, à la suite des votes qui viennent d'être émis, il résulte qu'il n'a pas été décision prise, quant au tracé de la crête au lac.

La Commission est d'accord sur ce point.

Le Président ouvre la discussion sur la question de Plavinica.

Le Commissaire d'Italie fait remarquer que, relativement au point d'attache de la frontière sur la rive orientale du lac, nous nous trouvons en présence d'une question semblable à la question déjà résolue au sujet de l'Ilot Gorica-Topal. Le texte du Traité dit: "Elle se dirige sur Plavinica," et le tracé graphique passe à l'est du point où, sur la Carte Autrichienne, se trouve écrit le mot "Plavinica." Mais sur le terrain, ce village se trouve réellement à quelques kilomètres plus à l'ouest. Or, il n'y a pas de doute que le Congrès ne connaissait pas les localités, et, s'en rapportant au figuré du terrain sur la carte qu'il croyait exacte, avait pris Plavinica comme point répère pour

indiquer la direction et l'étendue de la frontière; de sorte que le point d'attache ne répondrait pas à la volonté des Grandes Puissances si on ne le faisait pas passer sur le terrain en correspondance à celui du tracé de la carte, même qu'à quelques kilomètres où se trouve le village de Plavinica. En conséquence, et en conformité de la décision prise pour Gorica-Topal, le Commissaire d'Italie propose que le point d'attache de la frontière soit le point qui correspond sur le terrain à celui indiqué sur le tracé de la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien; soit, à l'est du Plavinica de cette carte.

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre observe que le vrai Plavinica est à 5 ou 6 kilom. du point indiqué sur la carte.

Son Excellence Riza Pacha déclare qu'il demande que la Commission s'en tienne à l'identité sur le terrain, le village de Plavinica devant servir de point de départ aux travaux ultérieurs de la Commission. Décider le contraire ferait dévier sensiblement la ligne, et porterait préjudice à la Turquie.

Le Commissaire de Russie fait remarquer qu'entre le point d'attache sur la rive orientale du lac et celui de la rive occidentale il y a une grande différence. A Gorica-Topal on était en présence d'un îlot bien marqué, tandis que de l'autre côté on n'a que des marécages, où tous les points ont une valeur égale, ou plutôt n'ont aucune valeur comme points d'attache. En raison des contradictions du Traité de Berlin relativement à la ligne-frontière dans la plaine de Podgorica, le Baron Kaulbars aurait préféré ne déterminer ce point d'attache que lorsque la ligne sera fixée dans la plaine; toutefois il proposerait, dès à présent, qu'on prenne comme point d'attache le point où passe le tracé de la Carte Autrichienne, parce que, selon lui, le Congrès avait des raisons graves pour diriger cette ligne sur ce point.

Le Premier Commissaire de Turquie observe qu'il ne faut pas s'attacher à commenter le point de vue des officiers délégués au Congrès de Berlin, et négliger le texte même du Traité, qui a plus d'autorité, sans aucun doute, en la matière, puisqu'il constate une décision.

Le Commissaire de France présente les observations suivantes:—

"L'Article XXVIII du Traité de Berlin dit que la nouvelle frontière, à partir de la plaine de Podgorica, 'se dirige sur Plavinica, laissant à l'Albanie les tribus de Klemanti, Gruda, et Hoté.'"

Si, en regard de ce texte, l'on consulte la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, on constate que son tracé ne mène pas la frontière sur Plavinica, mais à l'est-sud-est de ce village. Il y a bien une variante du tracé qui dirige la frontière sur un point nommé Plavinica sur la Carte Autrichienne; mais la Commission a déjà pu se convaincre que la position de Plavinica est par erreur indiquée à ce point, et que ce village est en réalité situé à quelques kilomètres au-dessus, dans la direction nord-ouest.

Si on devait transporter la ligne-frontière à l'emplacement réel de Plavinica, il faudrait attribuer à l'Albanie une partie notable de la plaine de la Zéta, et des populations, Slaves de race et Grecques de religion, qui l'habitent. Or, le Commissaire de France pense que ses collègues reconnaîtront qu'agir ainsi serait aller à l'encontre de l'intention des Puissances qui se trouvaient contractantes à Berlin.

Selon lui, l'intention qui a guidé cette Haute Assemblée se dégage clairement de ces mots: "Laisser à l'Albanie les tribus de Klemente, Gruda, et Hoti." En conséquence, et devant les contradictions qui existent entre le texte du Traité et le tracé de la Carte Autrichienne, le Commissaire de France est disposé à se guider, pour cette partie du tracé, sur les limites des tribus de Klemente, Gruda, et Hoti, sans se préoccuper outre mesure de la position de Plavinica, soit réelle, soit celle que lui donne la Carte Autrichienne.

Ce dernier point de vue (c'est-à-dire l'intention de ne pas donner une importance trop grande à la question de Plavinica), est encore fortifiée, chez M. le Comte Ceccaldi, par la raison suivante:—

Dans le procès-verbal de la réunion des Délégués Militaires, tenu à Berlin le 13 Juillet, 1879 (Blue Book, "Turkey No. 2, 1879," Inclosure 2 in No. 21), il est dit, quant aux différences des tracés d'après la Carte Autrichienne:—

"No. 3. La frontière près Plavinica a été tirée sur ma carte [c'est le Capitaine Ardagh, Délégué Militaire Britannique, qui parle] par le Colonel de Thommel, à trois ou quatre kilom. à l'est de Plavinica, et il y a eu un accord général sur ce tracé, excepté de la part du Capitaine Ardagh, qui maintenait que la ligne devait être tirée *sur* Plavinica, selon les termes du Traité, admettant cependant que les frontières existant entre les tribus devaient être suivies aussi complétement que possible.

"Aussi, et cette constatation a une grande valeur, c'est M. le Colonel de Thommel lui-même, Délégué Militaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, qui, à Berlin, dans le tracé qu'il a

marqué sur la carte du Capitaine Ardagh, n'a pas tenu compte de Plavinica pour déterminer la ligne-frontière, et son point de vue a été partagé par l'ensemble de la réunion des Délégués Militaires, sauf celui de Grande Bretagne ('And there was a general concurrence in this line except on the part of Captain Ardagh. . . . .')"

Le Commissaire Britannique dit que si on suit le texte du Traité de Berlin il n'y a pas de doute; mais il pense que l'intention du Traité est seulement de prendre un point d'appui.

Les Commissaires Monténégrins, tout en adoptant l'appréciation des Commissaires d'Italie et de Russie sur le point d'attache de la frontière entre Hum et le Plavinica de la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, pensent de leur côté que ce point ne pourrait être, quant à présent, déterminé d'une façon définitive; il dépend, en effet, de la ligne de séparation que la Commission arrêtera sur le terrain d'après les intentions du Traité de Berlin.

Le Commissaire de Russie adhère pleinement à l'exposé que vient de faire son collègue de France, tout en maintenant ce qu'il vient de déclarer par rapport au point d'attache.

Danish Effendi observe que la Commission a choisi comme point d'attache sur l'autre rive, Gorica-Topal, dont l'identité était contestée; et que, aujourd'hui, ayant un point désigné, et existant sur le terrain, elle ne saurait faire autrement que de l'adopter.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie dit que, sans pouvoir s'arrêter aux décisions prises par la Délégation Militaire au Congrès de Berlin, il doit avant tout s'en rapporter au Traité même; il pense qu'on pourrait accepter le Plavinica, tel qu'il est sur la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne pense aussi qu'il faut adopter le point fixé par la carte, bien que sur le terrain il n'y ait pas de village ni de maison.

Son Excellence Riza Pacha exprime le désir que la question ne soit pas encore soumise au vote, et que toute décision à cet égard soit ajournée jusqu'à ce que la Délégation Ottomane ait reçu le pouvoir, soit d'affirmer, soit de modifier les instructions qu'elle possède déjà, de réclamer le Plavinica tel qu'il existe sur le terrain. Un télégramme a été envoyé dans ce but aujourd'hui même à Constantinople.

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre appuie cette demande d'ajournement.

La Commission ajourne son vote jusqu'à la prochaine séance, où la Commission s'occupera du tracé.

Le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne voudrait demander, avant que la Commission parte pour Podgorica, à MM. les Commissaires de Turquie et du Monténégro, s'ils sont prêts à passer avec la Commission, de la démarcation de limites des tribus de Klementi, Hoti, Kucka, Kraina, et Drecalovich, directement à la démarcation de la frontière, située au nord et nord-est du district de Goussinjé-Plava, dans le cas où les circonstances ne permettraient pas à la Commission d'entrer dans ce district.

La Commission tout entière exprime le désir d'être fixée sur ce point.

La séance est suspendue de midi à 3 heures et demie.

A la reprise de la séance,

Le Président demande aux parties intéressées la réponse qu'elles auraient à faire à la question posée par M. le Capitaine Sale.

Les Commissaires de Turquie sont disposés à se rendre à Kolaschin avec la Commission.

Les Commissaires Monténégrins déclarent que l'intention du Gouvernement Princier n'est nullement de laisser de côté Plava et Goussinjé dans la délimitation, pour les raisons suivantes:—

1. Que leur Gouvernement regarde, aujourd'hui comme toujours, que la Sublime Porte doit, par le Traité de Berlin, faire au Monténégro la remise officielle de Plava-Goussinjé;

2. Que les esprits qui poussent les habitants de Plava et Goussinjé à la résistance, ainsi que, parmi ces derniers, ceux qui se sont laissé amener à cette résistance, seraient excités encore davantage, et disposés à l'opposition, si la Commission passait outre, et reprenait ses travaux sur un autre point.

D'un autre côté, l'Envoyé du Gouvernement Princier à Constantinople, M. le Voïvode Radonich, est chargé, afin que l'affaire en question ne puisse arrêter la Commission dans ses travaux, de traiter pour la remise de Plava-Goussinjé, et de faire dans ce sens un arrangement avec la Sublime Porte.

En conséquence, dès que le Gouvernement Princier aura connaissance du résultat des négociations, les Commissaires Monténégrins pourront donner à la Commission une réponse précise sur la question qu'elle vient de leur poser.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie déclare qu'il ne saurait admettre que la délimitation de la frontière Monténégro-Herzégovinienne soit ajournée par la question de Goussinjé-Plava. Il demande en conséquence aux Commissaires Monténégrins de s'expliquer à cet égard.

Le Premier Commissaire du Monténégro dit que, surpris par cette question, il est dans l'impossibilité de répondre.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie déclare qu'il ne peut rester dans l'incertitude, et prie les Commissaires Monténégrins d'en prendre acte. Il considère, en effet, que la question peut avoir des conséquences très-graves, et il n'admet pas que la délimitation du Monténégro et de l'Herzégovine puisse être ajournée, remise, ou interrompue un seul instant. M. le Consul-Général Lippich désirerait que la Commission, sur le point d'être saisie de cette question, décide si, quand il s'agira de reprendre ses travaux d'un autre côté, à Kolaschin par exemple, si elle devra s'y rendre.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie pense que la Commission se trouve, en effet, devant une situation tout-à-fait nouvelle, et qui n'était pas prévue; c'est-à-dire en présence de la possibilité d'une nouvelle interruption des travaux. C'est pour cette raison qu'il prie la Commission de se prononcer dès à présent.

Le Commissaire de Russie est d'avis que, sans préjuger la question, il serait certainement désirable de poursuivre intégralement les travaux. Mais, comme les Commissaires Monténégrins, il pense qu'il serait funeste d'écarter le district de Goussinjé-Plava, et il se réserve de présenter, en temps opportun, ses observations à ce sujet.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie fait la proposition suivante:

"La Commission, en exprimant le désir que la question de Plava-Goussinjé soit résolue avant que la Commission arrive aux limites de ce district, est d'avis que, si malheureusement cette question n'était pas réglée avant cet instant, la démarcation devrait se poursuivre vers la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine, indépendamment de la délimitation réservée du district Plava-Goussinjé."

Le Président met aux voix cette proposition.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Turquie votent pour la proposition.

Le Premier Commissaire Ottoman déclare, à l'appui de ce vote, que la délégation Ottomane contribuera, de son côté, à la délimitation de Goussinjé-Plava, si les circonstances le permettent. Dans le cas contraire, les Commissaires Ottomans n'entendent aucunement que l'œuvre de la Commission subisse un arrêt, et ils se déclarent prêts à passer outre et à suivre la Commission à Kolaschin, comme en Bosnie et la Herzégovine.

Les Commissaires de Russie et du Monténégro se réservent, en se référant aux observations qu'ils viennent de faire.

La Commission quittera Scutari Dimanche prochain pour se rendre à Podgorica.

La séance est levée à 6 heures.

Fait à Scutari, le 8 Août, 1879.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
POPOVIC.
KAULBARS.
RIZA.

Inclosure 4 in No. 347.

Protocole No. 23.—Séance du 22 Août, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
M. le Baron d'Estournelles de Constant.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Consul-Général Danish Effendi,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjudant-Major Sabri Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 9 heures.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Son Excellence Riza Pacha remet une note explicative du tracé Ottoman de la ligne de Gorica-Topal, qui sera annexée au tracé de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey.

Le Président rappelle que, conformément aux décisions prises, la Commission s'est rendue le 10 Août de Scutari à Helm, et de là à Chipchianik, où elle a couché; que le lendemain, 11 Août, elle est allée faire la reconnaissance des collines de Vranj, et qu'elle a, sur les collines, interrogé les témoins Turcs et Monténégrins sur les limites des possessions dans la plaine, tant des tribus de Grudi et Hoti que des gens de la Zéta; que le 11, au soir, elle s'est rendue à Podgorica avec l'intention d'y fixer son séjour jusqu'à la détermination de la frontière entre le lac et les confins de Goussinjé, aussi loin qu'il sera possible d'en approcher.

Les membres de la Sous-Commission Topographique ont relevé les points principaux depuis le lac jusque dans la Kutchka-Kraïna. Le 19 Août la Commission a fait une reconnaissance sur le sommet de la montagne de Sueka, à la suite de laquelle, dans les journées des 20 et 21, elle a interrogé, soit à Podgoritza, soit à Omer-Bojo, les témoins Turcs et Monténégrins sur les limites de la Kutchka-Kraïna, des Kutchki-Drelakovicz, et des tribus de Grudi et Klementi.

La Commission a décidé de se réunir aujourd'hui en séance, pour se rendre compte des travaux faits jusqu'à ce jour par la Sous-Commission Topographique, et de ceux qui restent à faire, pour que la Commission ait les éléments nécessaires à la fixation de la frontière de ce côté de l'Albanie.

Le Président dépose ensuite sur la table des délibérations deux lettres qui ont été

adressées à la Commission par le Comité de la Ligue Albanaise, qui s'est instituée à Goussinjé. L'une est en Turque, l'autre en Albanais; celle-ci est une reproduction de la première, et sans signatures. Le premier de ces documents a été traduit en Français dans les termes suivants :—

"*Lettre à MM. les Commissaires des Grandes Puissances pour la Délimitation du Monténégro, datée de Goussinjé, le 3 Août*, 1879 (*v. s.*) (1295 *de l'Hégira.*)

"Excellences,

"Nous avons appris que vous avez été délégués par vos Gouvernements respectifs pour la délimitation du Monténégro, et que vous êtes arrivés à votre destination. La délimitation ne saurait s'effectuer sans l'assentiment de toute l'Albanie, et le concours des Chefs et Boyraktars, possédant des pleines pouvoirs réguliers et signés. Déterminer sans cela la frontière, suivant les vœux, le désir et les intrigues du Monténégro, serait nul; et sans le concours des Chefs et Bayraktars de notre Albanie nous ne consentirons pas même à la cession d'une palme de notre territoire. Nous avons l'honneur, à la suite d'une décision prise entre nous, de vous faire connaître cette situation, pour que vous preniez vos mesures en conséquence.

"La Commission de Goussinjé. Suivent :

"1. Cachet de la Commission chargée de mener à bonne fin les affaires de Goussinjé.

"2. Le cachet du Chef du bourg de Plava,
(Signé) "HAMZA.

"3. Le cachet du Chef de la ville et des Nahiés de Djakóvá,
"MOHAMMED ABDULLAH.

"4. Le cachet du Chef de la ville et des Nahiés d'Ypek,
"HAJREDDIN.

"5. Le cachet du Chef de la ville et des Nahiés de Rizren,
"NUREDDIN.

"6. Le cachet du Chef de la ville et des Nahiés de Dibra,
"YOUSSOUF."

La Commission, pensant que le sens de la lettre ci-dessus est général, et ne s'applique pas spécialement à Goussinjé-Plava, mais à toute l'Albanie, est d'avis que l'incident est grave, et que chacun de ses membres devra en saisir son Gouvernement, sans que pour cela les travaux soient suspendus un seul instant. Il est d'ailleurs bien entendu qu'aucune réponse ne sera donnée à ces lettres.

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre demande jusqu'à quel point déterminé les Gouvernements Turc et Monténégrin garantissent la sécurité de la Sous-Commission Topographique, avant qu'elle se rende dans la Kuceka-Kraïna et chez les Klementi.

Le Commissaire Ottoman donne cette garantie jusqu'au Lac de Rikavatz.

Le Commissaire Monténégrin donne cette garantie sur toute la ligne-frontière qui divise les Kutchki des Grudi et Klementi, jusqu'aux approches de la frontière de Goussigné.

Le Président prend acte, au nom de la Commission, de cette double garantie.

L'ordre du jour appelle les instructions à donner à la Sous-Commission Topographique, relativement aux travaux du tracé de la ligne-frontière de la plaine de Podgorica, dans la direction de Kuza et de Goussinjé.

Le Commissaire de Russie propose que la Sous-Commission se rende à Korita, seul endroit où on trouve de l'eau.

Ce choix est approuvé par la Sous-Commission.

Après une discussion générale, *le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne* fait la proposition suivante :—

"Je propose que la Sous-Commission Topographique ait pour instructions d'établir le tracé de la frontière, à partir de la plaine de Podgorica jusqu'à l'extrémité de la Kutchka-Kraïna, en suivant d'une manière générale la ligne de la Carte Autrichienne, et, à partir de là, en suivant les limites de la tribu de Klementi.

"Chaque membre de la Sous-Commission pourra d'ailleurs comprendre dans son travail des variantes avec le tracé, mais son travail devra toujours fournir en entier la ligne indiquée plus haut."

Cette proposition est adoptée par 7 voix contre 1—celle de la délégation Ottomane.

La séance est levée à midi.

Fait à Podgorica, le 22 Août, 1879.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
CECCALDI.
SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
POPOVIC.
KAULBARS.
RIZA.

No. 348.

Admiral Pothuau to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 24.)

M. le Marquis, *Londres, le* 24 *Septembre*, 1879.

DEPUIS un mois déjà les Commissaires de la Grèce et de la Porte délibèrent, sans être parvenus à s'entendre sur la portée que les deux parties doivent attribuer au Protocole No. 13. On a donné ainsi, il nous semble, beaucoup trop de temps aux discussions de formes, et M. Waddington pense qu'il serait bon d'entrer sans plus de retard en négociations sur le tracé de la frontière.

Les Commissaires Grecs ont proposé de formuler le résultat de ces délibérations par la phrase suivante :—

"Les conséquences des négociations actuelles étant de faciliter à la Grèce et à la Turquie une entente désirée par l'Europe à Berlin sur une rectification de frontières destinée à établir entre les deux pays des rapports de stabilité et de sécurité réciproques, les deux parties sont d'accord pour accepter comme point de départ et comme base de discussion le Protocole No. 13."

Cette formule nous paraît donner pleine et entière satisfaction à la Porte. Cependant, Safvet Pacha se montre peu disposé à l'accepter, et nous attacherions beaucoup de prix à ce qu'elle fût appuyée par le Gouvernement de la Reine.

Je suis chargé par mon Gouvernement de vous communiquer cette formule et, si comme nous l'espérons, votre Excellence y donne son approbation, de lui demander de vouloir bien inviter par le télégraphe le Représentant de Sa Majesté Britannique à Constantinople à en recommander l'adoption aux Commissaires Turcs.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) A. POTHUAU.

No. 349.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 24.)

(No. 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Beyrout, September* 23, 1879.

ARRIVED here this morning. Nothing could be more gratifying and cordial than my reception by the authorities and population. Go to-morrow to Damascus.

No. 350.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 24, 2·30 P.M.)

(No. 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, September* 24, 1879, 11·20 A.M.

MILITARY route is voted for by five Commissioners—Turkish, Austrian, Italian, German, British.

I propose to start for England on Friday should I have no further instructions.

No. 351.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1189.)

Foreign Office, September 24, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 808 of the 7th instant, reporting the steps which you have taken to urge upon the Porte the expediency of confirming M. Scaltsouni in the appointment of President of the Court of Appeal in Crete.

Your Excellency's proceedings in this matter are approved. It would seem from Mr. Sandwith's Report that M. Scaltsouni's appointment is desirable, both in the interests of the island and of the Porte.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 352.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1195.)

Foreign Office, September 24, 1879.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency will have received from Mr. Michell a copy of his despatch to me No. 225 of the 6th instant, relative to the administration of justice in Eastern Roumelia.

Mr. Michell's views, as expressed in that despatch, appear to me to be well worthy of the attention of the Porte.

I should be glad if your Excellency had an opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Turkish Ministers his recommendation that they should insist on the nomination of a thoroughly competent person to the post of Director of Justice in the province.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 353.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1196.)

Foreign Office, September 24, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 778 of the 31st ultimo, forwarding a petition from the inhabitants of the district of Zagori that their country may be included in the territory to be ceded by Turkey to Greece.

It would be premature to make any positive affirmation as to the result of the present negotiations for the rectification of the Greek frontier or the amount of territory which may be assigned to the Greek Kingdom in consequence. I can only state that, as at present advised, Her Majesty's Government would not be prepared to press upon the Porte the cession of the district in question.

On the other hand, Her Majesty's Government can entertain no doubt that it will be in the interest of the Porte that the inhabitants of Zagori should continue to enjoy the privileges hitherto accorded to them, and they will be glad if it should be in your Excellency's power to obtain an assurance from the Turkish Government to that effect.

They leave to your Excellency's discretion the choice of the time for making any representation on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 354.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1169. Secret.)

Foreign Office, September 24, 1879.

Sir,

AT an interview with which M. Waddington favoured me at Dieppe on the 19th instant, his Excellency took especial pains to assure me, in the most emphatic language, that there was no foundation whatever for the rumour which the Russians have recently been circulating to the effect that France was likely to join in a Russo-Italian attack on Austria and Germany.

Her political condition, which was still unconsolidated, would make any war exceedingly distasteful, not only to himself but to the President and all his party—such a war as that which was spoken of he looked upon as causeless and unjustifiable, and he had informed Prince Bismarck that he might entirely rely on France taking no part in it.

His Excellency spoke on this subject in an earnest and indignant manner, unlike his usual demeanour.

M. Waddington went on to say that, in his opinion, an attack by Italy on the Austro-Italian province was impossible. In the first place, the insufficient condition of the Italian army made it powerless to cope with the Austrians; and, in the second place, Germany could never submit to be cut off from the outlet of Trieste. Of Italy and her restless policy his Excellency spoke with some disgust. He was aware of the fact that she was seeking a Russian alliance, but he did not believe that any serious results would transpire from this *rapprochement*, which Count Tornielli and M. Nigra had been labouring for some time to effect.

A Russian alliance, M. Waddington said, was popular in France with the Monarchial parties, but not with the Republicans, and a fatal objection to any combination with Italy for the purpose of attacking Austria and Germany lay in the fact that the Italians claimed as part of "unredeemed Italy" not only Nice, but, he believed, even Corsica. France had, however, had enough of war for this generation, and, unless she were positively forced into it by insult, he did not think she would suffer herself to be involved in another conflict.

The principal object of M. Waddington's visit to me appeared to me to be to convince the English Government that though Italy had yielded to Russian seduction there was no chance of a similar weakness on the part of France.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 355.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Michell.

(No. 59.)

Foreign Office, September 24, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 226 of the 6th instant, forwarding copy of the declaration made by you in the Commission with regard to the illegal nature of the Gymnastic Societies which have been formed throughout Eastern Roumelia, and the danger which they offer to public security.

Your proceedings in this matter have the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 356.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 130.)

Foreign Office, September 24, 1879.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of papers which have been communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador at this Court relative to the ill-treatment of the Mussulman residents in Bulgaria.

I should wish you to repeat very earnestly the remonstrances which you have already addressed to the Bulgarian Government upon this subject, and to urge upon

Prince Alexander and his advisers the necessity of making strict inquiry into the facts, and of taking effective measures for the protection of the persons and property of the Mussulman population of the Principality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 357.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 219.)
My Lord, *Athens, September 3, 1879.*

M. DELYANNI read to me to-day the Declaration which the Ottoman Commissioners made at the meeting of the Greek Frontier Commission on the 31st ultimo.

In the first part of this document the Ottoman Commissioners show why the terms of the 13th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin are not obligatory on the Porte.

In the second they state that they will accept the terms of that Protocol as a first basis of negotiation, provided that either party be allowed to modify the clauses referring to the extreme points of the proposed new line of frontier.

The Greek Government have instructed their Commissioners to reply at to-morrow's meeting that they are incompetent to discuss the question of the obligatory nature of the 13th Protocol on the Porte, and that it is for the Great Powers and the Porte to decide this question.

As to the second part of the Ottoman Declaration, the Greek Commissioners are instructed to press for a categorical answer to the proposal made by them for a basis of negotiation, and for a renewal of the negotiation at the point at which it was broken off at Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 358.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 82. Secret.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 16, 1879.*

IN the course of conversation the other day with the French Military Attaché here, he told me that on a recent occasion General Zelenoy had observed, in speaking of the differences on the Commission with respect to the point west of Karaourgan, that the Russians intended to hold out; that the British Commissioner was bound to accept their point west of Karaourgan, and that they were in the position of *beati possidentes*.

As this was a privileged communication made in the course of conversation, I could take no further notice than to report it to your Lordship, and to suggest that it might be desirable to indicate in general terms to our Consul in Kurdistan the nature of the difference between the British and Russian Commissioners, so that he might cause a watch to be kept on the Russian proceedings in the immediate neighbourhood to the south-west and south of Karaourgan. This should be done in a very cautious manner, and, if possible, through native agency, so as not to excite comment on the part of the Russians; otherwise it should be left alone, till the time comes for the Commission to proceed to the spot next year.

On receiving your Lordship's instructions, I could send a sketch illustration of the points at issue to Major Trotter, through Her Majesty's Ambassador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 359.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 154.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 24, 1879.*

PRINCE BISMARCK leaves to-night. Regret not to be able to inform your Lordship of the nature of the understanding between Austria and Germany, but it is generally said nothing of a written nature has been signed. Commercial matters are said to have been largely discussed.

Prince called upon French and Turkish Ambassadors, and used friendly and pacific language; he wanted a good understanding with France, and he attached great value to M. Waddington's presence in the French Ministry. He also called upon Nuncio.

I think that the impression [?] that Prince Bismarck's demonstrative visit is partly with view of calming Russian activity by showing her her isolation.

No. 360.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 25, 1879, 2·45 P.M.*

YOURS 29. You are authorized to return on Friday, as you propose.

Pray accept my congratulations on successful termination of your labours, and cordial thanks of Her Majesty's Government for your services.

No. 361.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 25, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, September 25, 1879, 1 P.M.*

I FORWARD by post a copy of the Ministerial proposal concerning amendment of Constitution which was presented to Chambers yesterday; a translation of it has probably appeared in the [?] "Times" of this morning. It is accompanied by a nominal list of upwards of 1,000 Jews, with their special qualifications for immediate naturalization. Should this proposal become law, which is not by any means certain yet, the Powers will have to consider whether they can modify their relations with Roumania. There is no prospect whatever of any more favourable proposal receiving constitutional sanction for some time. It is hoped here that the interest taken at Berlin in the German Railway Company may induce Imperial Government to be less exacting on this question, and with that view Roumanian Minister of Finance left for Berlin yesterday on mission accurately described to your Lordship in the telegram of Sir J. Walsham of the 20th instant.

The Prince of Bulgaria, expected on visit here early in next week, will be doubtless inquisitive as to your Lordship's selection for the successor to Mr. Palgrave.

No. 362.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 25, 5 P.M.)

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 25, 1879, 3·25 P.M.*

MY telegram No. 61.

Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that he has written to Vienna to ascertain what Austrian Government intend to do with regard to the proposal of the Servian Government to postpone further action for the moment in the matter of Jewish emancipation in the Principalities, and that until an answer was received German Government would not come to any decision. His Excellency promised to communicate with me again after obtaining this information.

No. 363.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 1206.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 25, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch which has been communicated by the Turkish Ambassador at this Court, requesting that Her Majesty's Government will support the representations made by the Porte at Belgrade with the view of obtaining permission for the Albanian inhabitants of the territory ceded to Servia to return to their homes.

I have informed Musurus Pasha that Mr. Gould is on his way to England, and that on his arrival I would consult him on the subject.

I hope, however, from the despatches and telegrams received from Her Majesty's Legation at Belgrade, that this question is in the way of satisfactory settlement.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 364.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 524 A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 25, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 524 of the 23rd instant, in which I announced to you that Her Majesty's Government had accepted the last proposal made by the Russian Government for the settlement of the Bulgarian frontier near Silistria, I have to inform you that, in order to avoid any misapprehension that might result from the wording of the proposal, I have stated to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires that Her Majesty's Government agree to the proposed mode of procedure on the understanding that power is reserved to the Cabinets to decide by a vote of the majority upon the whole question at issue, and to come to what decision they think fit.

It is obvious that if the vote were to be limited to acceptance or rejection of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Technical Commission, the question might again be left in an unsettled state.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 365.

Sir J. Paunceforte to M. Bartholomei.

Dear M. Bartholomei, *Foreign Office, September* 25, 1879.

WITH reference to the communication I made to you the day before yesterday, by Lord Salisbury's direction, in regard to the settlement of the frontier near Silistria, Lord Salisbury wishes me to say that Her Majesty's Government accept the proposed mode of procedure, on the understanding that power is reserved to the Cabinets to decide by a vote of the majority upon the whole question at issue, and to come to what decision they think fit.

This Lord Salisbury believes to be also the intention of your Government in making the proposal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 366.

M. Bartholomei to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

M. le Marquis, *Londres, le* 25 *Septembre*, 1879.

JE viens de recevoir de M. de Giers, de Livadia, la communication suivante, que je suis chargé de vous adresser :—

Toutes les Puissances étant d'accord pour la réunion d'une Commission Technique d'Ingénieurs chargée de la fixation du point de départ de la frontière Bulgaro-Roumaine sur le Danube, le Gouvernement Impérial propose que les Délégués respectifs se réunissent à Silistrie pour le $\frac{15}{27}$ Octobre prochain, et tient à savoir si le Gouvernement Britannique est prêt à adhérer à cette proposition.

Permettez-moi de compter sans trop de délai sur la réponse dont vous voudrez bien me faire part à ce sujet.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) M. BARTHOLOMEI.

No. 367.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26, 7 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, September* 26, 1879, 3·50 P.M.

FROM the state of political parties the conviction is brought to my mind that it is hopeless to expect from the present Legislature, or Roumanian Electoral Body, any larger measure of concession in favour of native Jews; if, therefore, the Powers deem the Bill now before the Chambers an inadequate measure, and one insufficient to justify their recognition of Roumania, or being acceptable as an instalment, they will have to consider between them so as to devise some better provision of *modus vivendi* common to them alike, instead of present one, for their relation with this Principality, unless they prefer agreeing on some immediate mode of coercion; as the Prince appears to be reaching a Constitutional deadlock.

No. 368.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Admiral Pothuau.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, September* 26, 1879.

IN reply to the inquiry which you have addressed to me on the subject of the recent proposal of the Russian Government for the settlement of the Bulgarian frontier near Silistria, I have the honour to inform you that the proposal in question, according to the communication last made to me by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, is to the following effect:—

That a special Technical Commission, composed of civil engineers, should be sent to the spot for the purpose of ascertaining the point on the Danube to the east of Silistria which would be most suitable for the construction of a bridge; and that the Report of this Commission should serve as a basis for the decision of the Cabinets, who would decide the question of the frontier by a majority of votes.

As the Russian Government represent that all the other Cabinets concerned are disposed to accept this plan, and as it is desirable that the question in dispute should be brought to a speedy settlement, Her Majesty's Government have intimated their willingness to agree to the proposed mode of proceeding, though they see no reason to distrust the conclusion which had been come to by the majority of the eminent engineer officers who have already examined the ground.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 369.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 114. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, September* 15, 1879.

IN my despatch No. 53 of the 25th May of last year, I had the honour to explain to your Lordship the position of the Mirdite Chieftain, Capitan Cola, and who then declined to accept the amnesty offered by the Turkish Government to all the Mirdites who had espoused Prenk Bib Doda's cause.

During one of my recent visits to Cettinjé, Capitan Prenk, the son of Capitan Cola, and who is still an Aide-de-camp to Prince Nicholas, expressed to me, with His

Highness' knowledge and permission, the desire to make his submission to the Turkish authorities and withdraw from the Montenegrin service. I told the young Chief that unless his father first made his peace with the Turks I could not intercede on his behalf.

Shortly after my return from Cettinjé I received a message from Capitan Cola offering to accept, with his followers, the Turkish amnesty published last year.

The Governor-General, Hussein Pasha, although desirous of accepting Capitan Cola's submission, was so anxious to keep in the background the fact that it would be brought about through my intervention that the Mirdite Chief feared treachery, and declined to come to Scutari on promises of safety unsupported by the guarantee of a foreign Representative.

As soon as Hussein Pasha was recalled Capitan Cola renewed to me his request, and I brought it to the knowledge of Ali Haidar Pasha, with the strong recommendation that it should be favourably received. I pointed out to his Excellency that when agitators like Colonels Becker and Despotovic were known to be attempting to create a party in North Albania, it was highly advisable that every possible opening should be closed to them, and that the popularity and known courage of Capitan Cola were such that if the Chief was driven to despair of clemency he might easily put the Mirdite mountains into a state which would enable the enemies of the Porte to assert that rebellion was still smouldering in Albania.

Ali Haidar Pasha, concurring in my arguments, authorized me to convey satisfactory assurances to Capitan Cola, who immediately came to Scutari, and he has now been received by the Governor-General and placed on the same footing as the other pardoned Mirdites.

I trust that on my next visit to Cettinjé I shall be able to make similar arrangements for the return of Capitan Prenk.

There can be no doubt that the Turkish Government is to be congratulated on having removed all semblance of opposition by the Mirdites; but, I believe, these hardy mountaineers have principally been led to submit through the fear that they might be shut out from having a voice in the proposed reorganization of the country which they think Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin has promised to secure for it, and that if nothing is done shortly in this direction the probability is that the Mirdites will endeavour to precipitate matters by making their mountains once again the centre of foreign intrigues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 370.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 27.)

(No. 24. Political.)
Corfu, September 20, 1879.

My Lord,

IN extension of my telegram of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that the Montenegrin Boundary Commission have decided to stop work for the season, and have fixed the 1st May, 1880, at Ragusa, as the time and place for the next meeting.

I myself opposed this decision, seeing no sufficient reason for stopping work until actually obliged to do so by the commencement of the winter rain and snow.

Your Lordship's telegraphic instructions of the 9th instant arrived after the decision of the Commission in the matter of the Kûcka Krania had been taken, but I am fortunate in having been able to anticipate these instructions, and the action of the Commission has been almost precisely as desired.

The Commission have defined, in accordance with the text of the Treaty, and with sufficient accuracy for purposes of demarkation, the limits of the Kûcka Krania, and also of the Clementi tribe as far as circumstances permitted them to go, and have agreed that it would be preferable if the frontier thus defined were modified by an exchange of territory which would give the whole or part of the Kûcka Krania to Montenegro.

The Commission were enabled to reach a spot within sight of the town of Gusinjé, but were unable to proceed further, as the Representatives of the limitrophe countries declined to guarantee the security of the party further in advance of that point.

The whole of the frontier from the sea by the Scutari Lake up to the vicinity of

Gusinjé has been dealt with, and, as far as possible, settled, but it will not be practicable to settle finally certain parts of the frontier near Podgoritza until the question of exchange of territory is determined.

As this question of exchange of territory has been raised, and as I have some reason to believe that the Turkish Foreign Office have not been altogether well informed as to the actual facts of the case, I had requested your Lordship's sanction to returning viâ Constantinople, in order that I might see Sir A. H. Layard and communicate to him such detailed information concerning the country between Gusinjé-Plava and Podgoritza as might be desired.

Your Lordship's sanction having been received, I am now, with Lieutenant Caillard, R.E., *en route* for Constantinople, and at that place propose to complete and send to the Foreign Office the detailed Report and maps and specifications of frontier up to the furthest point visited by the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 371.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 27.)

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 26, 1879.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 138, General Kaufmann left St. Petersburgh for Livadia the day before yesterday.

With reference to your telegram No. 180, "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" denies truth of reported Russian defeat beyond the Caspian. Jomini, however, only says it has not been confirmed, adding that last accounts, on the contrary, report Russians to be advancing successfully.

No. 372.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 27.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, September* 26, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th instant, tacit permission to act provisionally easier for Resident, as in the case of present Acting British Vice-Consul at Kustendje. Mr. Blunt, on arrival, would be regarded as a private person, liable to duty on his effects, and if refused permission to act would find himself in a most unpleasant position. Moreover, moment appears inopportune for raising such question here, as in case of a prolongation of our present informal relations with Roumania difficulties are likely to go on increasing, and position of unrecognized Consular officers might become untenable. I have, therefore, the greatest objection to such a course.

No. 373.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 27, 11 A.M.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, September* 27, 1879, 12·50 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 8, the Turkish Ambassador yesterday informed me that he had ascertained that our protection of Turkish subjects in Asterabad would not cause any annoyance, or be distasteful to the Persian Government.

No. 374.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 27, 11·30 A.M.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Damascus, September* 27, 1879, 9·45 A.M.

ARRIVED here the day before yesterday. Midhat Pasha and notables met me some distance from the city, and a vast crowd was assembled to welcome me. To-day the city gives me a public dinner.

My reception here, as elsewhere, has been everything that could be desired.

No. 375.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 27, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September 27, 1879, 12·30 P.M.*

GREEK Chargé d'Affaires at Paris has telegraphed that M. Waddington had informed him that at an interview of the former with your Lordship you had said that the British Government would not oppose annexation of Janina to Greece, but would not recommend it to the Porte.

The King, in giving me this information, expressed the great satisfaction its receipt had afforded him. His Majesty seemed to think principal obstacle to the realization of Greek desires in regard to Janina was removed.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 376.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 27, 1879, 5 P.M.*

AS Austrian Government accept last Russian proposal on Arab-Tabia question, we also accept. I have stated that we do so on the understanding that power is reserved to the Cabinets to decide by a vote of the majority upon the whole question at issue, and to come to what decision they may think fit.

No. 377.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 527.) *Foreign Office, September 27, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 487 of the 9th instant, reporting a conversation between yourself and Baron de Jomini on the subject of the mode of settlement of the Arab-Tabia difficulty.

I have to inform you, in reply, that the language held by you at that interview, as reported in the above-named despatch, meets with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 378.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 614.) *Foreign Office, September 27, 1879.*

Sir,

I LEARN from your telegram No. 153 of the 20th instant that the Austrian Government have accepted the last Russian proposal for the solution of the Arab-Tabia difficulty, but that it is their opinion that the labours of the Boundary Commission, as well as those of the special technical Commission, must be taken into consideration by the Cabinets.

I have informed you to-day, by telegraph, that Her Majesty's Government, on learning this decision, expressed their readiness also to accept the Russian proposal. They have, however, in signifying their acquiescence, stated that it is given on the understanding that power is reserved to the Cabinets to decide, by the votes of the majority, on the whole question at issue, and that there shall be no doubt as to the liberty of the Cabinets to adopt whatever decision may seem to them to be most desirable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 378*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(No. 61.) *Foreign Office, September 27, 1879.*

Sir,

IN reply to your despatch No. 73 of the 8th instant, I have to inform you that, as at present advised, I am aware of no reason to prevent your return to England with the members of your staff so soon as the business mentioned in that despatch has been disposed of.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 379.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 83.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 27, 1879.*

ITALIAN Government have adhered to French proposal to urge on the Porte adoption of XIIIth Article as basis of negotiations between Greece and Turkey.

No. 380.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 155.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 27, 1879.*

WITH reference to General Hamley, Austrian Commissioner has also applied for leave, which I believe will be granted.

No. 381.

Acting Consul Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, September 27, 1879.*

TURKOMAN expedition recalled. Tribe has come to terms.

No. 382.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, September 28, 1879.*

PRINCE left this morning for Bucharest, where he will pass about four days with Prince Charles of Roumania, returning by Silistria and Widdin within a fortnight; he is accompanied by Roumanian Consul-General. Visit to Belgrade deferred to spring.

No. 383.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 608 [*sic*]. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 28, 1879, 10·30 A.M.*

ALIM MIRZA, recent Secretary to General Kaufmann, who is here on his way to Mecca, has given Marinich, Dragoman to the Embassy, copies of two letters, which he states that he was ordered to draw up.

One is from Kaufmann to the Ameer of Afghanistan, the other from General Stolietoff to the Ameer's Minister.

The first, after announcing the mission of General Stolietoff, offers the protection of Russia, saying that it will relieve Afghanistan from the claws of England, who is desirous of conquest and ruin of Afghanistan. It concludes by saying that Russia offers to furnish either money or troops.

The second is apparently written by General Stolieteff on his return from Cabul. He states in it that he has conveyed to Kaufmann the friendly messages of the Ameer and his Minister. He says that troops will shortly be ready; that, with the aid of God, the wishes of the Minister will be fulfilled within the promised term. He begs the Minister to calm fears of Ameer, and to assure him that the English will not venture to attack him before the expiration of this term, as they will tremble when they hear the name of Russia.

I send the translations by messenger on Tuesday.

No. 384.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 29.*)

(No. 280.) *Belgrade, September 23, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of M. Ristich's note to M. Christitch at Constantinople on the Albanian question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 384.

M. Ristich to M. Christitch.

Belgrade, le 3 Septembre, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

SON Excellence Sérined Effendi m'a adressé le 4 Août dernier une note pour demander, au nom du Gouvernement Impérial, le rappel des Albanais émigrés des contrées annexées à la Serbie par le Traité de Berlin.

En réponse à cette demande il me paraît nécessaire de donner un court exposé de l'état des choses.

Dans sa marche à travers la Pousta Réka et le Goliak, l'armée Serbe n'a jamais rencontré de villages Albanais habités. Les Albanais faisaient résistance à nos troupes et c'est en combattant qu'ils ont été refoulés au-delà de la ligne de démarcation.

L'armistice survenu et la paix une fois conclue, il s'est trouvé sur les territoires nouvellement acquis à la Serbie trois groupes d'Albanais :—

1. L'un composé de neuf villages situés dans la contrée de Masouritza. Ces Albanais habitent aujourd'hui encore les mêmes localités et vivent en honnêtes et paisibles laboureurs.

2. Le second groupe d'Albanais était établi à Lapachtitza, Svignitzé, &c., où ils vivent encore aujourd'hui.

3. Un troisième groupe enfin habitait sur la rive gauche de la Toplitza, ayant ses établissements disséminés entre l'ancienne frontière Serbe et la route de Procouplié à Kourchoumlia.

Dans une excursion que Son Altesse le Prince fit l'an dernier à Procouplié, des députations d'Albanais de ce dernier groupe vinrent le saluer et lui exprimèrent le désir de quitter le territoire de la Principauté. Son Altesse, tout en leur déclarant qu'ils étaient libres d'agir à leur gré, chercha à les dissuader de leur projet et les engagea à rester en Serbie sous la protection de nos lois. Mais quelque temps après ils insistèrent pour quitter le pays, et les autorités Serbes ne purent s'opposer à leur départ.

Les motifs qui ont poussé ce dernier groupe à s'expatrier ne sont pas connus, mais comme on procédait alors au recrutement, on peut supposer que le mobile déterminant a été de se soustraire à l'obligation du service militaire.

Les Albanais qui n'ont fait partie d'aucun de ces trois groupes, c'est-à-dire ceux qui se sont opposés les armes à la main à la marche des troupes Serbes et se sont vus refoulés hors de nouveaux territoires, n'ont jamais sollicité des autorités Serbes leur repatriement. Partout ils se sont présentés en ennemis, attaquant et dévastant les contrées qu'ils ont habitées. Aussi le Gouvernement Serbe, qui n'avait à faire qu'à des bandes d'agresseurs, réunis aux Albanais de Diakovitza, d'Ipek, d'Uskub, et de

Prizren pour attaquer la Serbie, n'a-t-il jamais été appelé à examiner les vœux de ces gens.

Ce n'est que par la note du Ministre Ottoman que le Gouvernement Princier a eu régulièrement connaissance du désir des Albanais de rentrer dans leurs foyers et, mû par un sentiment d'humanité, il n'hésite pas à affirmer qu'il est prêt à aller au devant de ce vœu, pourvu que les Albanais s'adressent aux autorités princières et déclarent se soumettre aux lois du pays, lequel leur accordera toute la protection dont jouissent les autres sujets de son Altesse, notre auguste Maître.

Vous êtes en conséquence autorisé, M. le Ministre, à faire savoir à la Sublime Porte que le Commandant du Corps de la Morava, Colonel Horvatovitch, a déjà reçu l'ordre d'accueillir les députations que les Albanais pourraient lui envoyer, d'écouter et d'examiner leurs vœux, enfin de combiner avec les autorités Impériales les mesures à prendre pour le rapatriement des émigrés Albanais. Je dois cependant ajouter que les Albanais qui ont quitté le pays après la guerre, de leur plein gré et sur leur demande réitérée, c'est-à-dire ceux du troisième groupe qui habitaient la rive gauche de la Toplitza, restent exclus de la faculté de rentrer dans les villages volontairement abandonnés par eux et où d'autres populations se sont établies depuis. Rien ne peut être invoqué contre cette exception, ces gens ayant fait librement leur choix et occasionné même à la Serbie des dépenses pour leur expatriation.

Veuillez, M. le Ministre, en portant à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte cette décision du Gouvernement Princier, la prier de vouloir bien donner des ordres aux autorités du Vilayet de Kossovo, pour s'entendre avec le Colonel Horvatovitch sur les mesures à prendre relativement au rapatriement des réfugiés.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) JEAN RISTITCH.

No. 385.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 29.*)

(No. 472. Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, September 25, 1879.*

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH it is extremely difficult to gather accurate information when almost everybody is absent from St. Petersburgh, I feel it my duty nevertheless to report that there exists a general conviction that important decisions are now being taken at Livadia which may materially affect the future policy, both internal and external, of the Russian Empire.

The position taken up by Russia at the present moment seems one of more or less open hostility and suspicion as regards Germany, Austria, and Great Britain, and of advances for the friendship of Italy and France.

Italy to a certain extent would appear to have succumbed to the blandishments of Russia.

The nomination of Count Tornielli to a post of such intrinsic insignificance, but of so much immediate importance at this moment to Austria, as Belgrade, coupled with the attitude of the Italian members on most of the Delimitation Commissions, seems to excite considerable anxiety in the mind of my Austrian colleague, and to lead him to suspect that Russia is endeavouring to prepare trouble in the Slave Principalities, as well as on the Italian frontier, as a counter-move to the growing good understanding between Austria and Germany.

On the other hand, to judge by the language which Baron Jomini has used to some members of the Diplomatic Corps about M. Waddington, it would seem that France has so far turned a deaf ear to the advances of Russia, and that no hope is entertained of her being gained over as long as his Excellency continues at the head of the French Foreign Department.

The indiscreet expression of French sympathies lately published by Prince Gortschakoff in his conversation with the correspondent of the "Soleil" has, I am assured, been seen with displeasure at Livadia.

The quarrel between this country and Germany, so far from having been calmed by the late interview at Alexandrowa, appears to be settling down into a serious feeling of mutual ill-will, and, as far as I can judge from the guarded language of the German Representative, there seems no immediate prospect of any permanent improvement in the relations between St. Petersburgh and Berlin.

On the other hand, the meeting of Prince Bismarck and Count Andrassy at

Vienna has been watched by Russia with anxious eyes, and is believed to have produced a momentary hesitation on her part as to the wisdom of her course in courting a quarrel with her powerful German neighbour.

At the same time, the news which has suddenly come from Cabul, and the opening which it offers for fresh combinations against England, is also understood to have had its effect in contributing to this desire to patch up matters with Germany.

In consequence of all the English press has told them of our past difficulties in the Afghan and Zulu wars, and of those to come in the forthcoming expedition to Cabul, the Russians flatter themselves that Great Britain will at present be unable to offer serious opposition to the accomplishment of their designs, and I fear that to many of them at all events the idea has suggested itself that the morrow of the massacre of the British Mission at Cabul would be a favourable moment to force the hand of England, either by negotiation or if necessary by arms, and to regain in the eyes of their own discontented fellow-subjects some of the prestige which they lost by their failure to enter Constantinople, by their accession to the Treaty of Berlin, and by the forced withdrawal of their mission from the Court of the Ameer.

It seems incredible that the Russians, who had to strain every nerve to defeat the unsupported armies of Turkey, should now be willing to risk a quarrel with anybody or everybody. Such, however, appears to be their temper at present, although probably at the last moment prudence may moderate their arrogance.

I am under the impression that two very different causes contribute largely to this present anomalous state of public feeling.

On the one hand, the Government are glad to keep the attention of the nation directed to foreign affairs, so that it may have less time to reflect on the rottenness of things at home; while, on the other hand, the Nihilists and their friends take advantage of every opportunity to create discord and encourage wars, in the hope of their being unsuccessful, and thus bringing about more surely and more rapidly that general ruin and chaos from which they hope to evoke the germ of future social development.

What would seem to confirm this suspicion of unfair play somewhere in the press is the frequency with which summaries of the newspaper articles in St. Petersburgh and London respectively are telegraphed to the other city in greatly exaggerated terms, and with every sign of having been made purposely more offensive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 386.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 29.)

(No. 466.) *Berlin, September* 25, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 456 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to state that the German Government are taking steps to ascertain what views the Austrian Government entertain with regard to the proposal of the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs to postpone for the present any further action with the view of at once passing a measure for the emancipation of the Jews in the Principality.

Until an answer shall have been received from Vienna, the German Government, M. de Radowitz informs me, will not pronounce any opinion in the matter, but his Excellency has promised to communicate with me again directly he has obtained the information which is wanted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 387.

M. Bartholomei to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 29.)

Londres, le 27 Septembre, 1879.

M. le Marquis,

JE suis chargé par mon Gouvernement de vous entretenir au sujet de ce qui s'est passé dernièrement au sein de la Commission de Délimitation de la Roumélie Orientale

et de la Bulgarie. J'aurais préféré vous en parler, mais afin d'éviter des délais, je vous exposerai brièvement par écrit ce que j'aurais voulu vous dire de vive voix.

Il paraîtrait que dans la séance du 12 Septembre, les Délégués de la Grande Bretagne, de l'Autriche-Hongrie, de l'Italie, et de la Turquie, ont voté en faveur du tracé d'une route militaire Turque à travers la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale. Le Commissaire Allemand s'est joint à cette majorité; le Délégué Français s'est abstenu. Le Représentant Russe a décliné de voter. Depuis, la Commission aurait clos ses séances et le Délégué Français serait parti.

Comme la question de la route militaire n'est pas destinée à être mentionnée dans l'Acte de Délimitation qui sera soumis à la sanction des Gouvernements, elle resterait seulement établie par un Protocole. Pour s'en prévaloir, la Turquie devra s'entendre avec la Principauté de Bulgarie.

En tout état de cause, le vote qui vient d'être prononcé dans la Commission de Délimitation ne pourrait avoir trait qu'au seul côté technique et purement éventuel de la question, qui, en principe, reste réservée à la décision des Cabinets.

Tel est le point de vue du Gouvernement Impérial qui doit vous être déjà connu, M. le Marquis, par les communications précédentes que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous adresser, et parmi lesquelles je pourrais mentionner en première ligne les deux dépêches de M. de Giers dont je vous avais donné dans le temps lecture confidentiellement.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) M. BARTHOLOMEI.

No. 388.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 29.)

(No. 667 [*sic*].) *Constantinople, September* 28, 1879, 2 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING figures have been received from Sir H. Layard, dated Friday:—

"Will you send Previosi to the Palace to present my compliments to the Sultan, and to convey to His Majesty my warmest thanks for my reception here by the civil authorities and the population, which has been most gratifying. Unfortunately, for some reason which I am not able to explain to His Majesty, the military authorities were the reverse of civil, having withdrawn troops as I was entering. This has made bad impression.

"Will you communicate this to Safvet Pasha also, and tell him that the cause of conduct of military authorities is a quarrel between Midhat Pasha and the Mushir, promoted, I am informed, by intrigues of Djemil Pasha, and which is producing very bad effects on population."

No. 389.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 29.)

(No. 668 [*sic*].) *Constantinople, September* 28, 1879, 2 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram No. 667, I have sent following to Sir H. Layard to-day:—

"Safvet Pasha requests me to express his great regret at conduct of military, and to say that he will take care that proper reparation is made.

"Midhat Pasha had already telegraphed on the subject."

No. 390.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 29.)

(No. 617 [*sic*].) *Constantinople, September* 28, 1879, 3 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent following to Sir H. Layard, dated to-day:—

"The Sultan has learnt incident at Damascus with much regret; but he desires to know exactly what happened, in order to judge what he should do.

"He has requested me to come and see him on Wednesday."

No. 391.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 29, 2·45 P.M.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, September 29, 1879, noon.*

PRINCE of Bulgaria expected here to-morrow. His Minister for War passed Bucharest last week going to Russia, probably Livadia. The Prince himself intends going to St. Petersburgh only in February next, and give up his visit to Belgrade until spring, as in four weeks the Bulgarian Parliament meets, and will, it is feared, occasion some trouble.

Should your Lordship be desirous of giving me any special instructions during Prince's visit here, I may have an opportunity of seeing His Highness.

No. 392.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 528A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 29, 1879.*

ON the 3rd instant the Russian Chargé d'Affaires repeated to me the objections entertained by his Government to the concession of a military route to Turkey through the southern portion of Bulgaria. He read to me confidentially a despatch stating their reasons for opposing this measure, but he told me that he had no instructions to communicate it or to leave a copy of it with me.

M. Bartholomei went on to say that his Government understood that the Commission of Delimitation intended to proceed to the selection of the road in question, notwithstanding the protests of the Russian Delegate. They trusted that the British Commissioner would be instructed to abstain from voting upon the question.

I did not, upon consideration, see that Her Majesty's Commissioner could properly be so instructed. It seemed to me to have been clearly the intention of the Congress of Berlin, as recorded in Protocol No. 17, that the Commission should determine the line which this road should take. The question whether it would be politic or desirable that the Porte should make use of it is a separate matter.

The Commission has since proceeded to a vote upon the question. The British, Austrian, Italian, and Turkish Commissioners voted for the road, and were joined by the German Commissioner. The French Delegate abstained from expressing an opinion. The Russian Delegate refused to take any part in the vote.

M. Bartholomei has now communicated to me the view taken by his Government of the present state of the question. He observes that the vote of the Commission will not be mentioned in the Act of Delimitation, but will be simply recorded in a Protocol, and that in order to give it any effect an Agreement between the Porte and the Principality of Bulgaria will be requisite.

The Russian Government consider that in any case the vote of the Commission can only be considered as affecting the technical part of the question, and that the principle of the concession of the road is still reserved for the decision of the Cabinets.

I spoke to Count Schouvaloff on the subject a few days ago. He concurred with me in the opinion that the discussion upon this question, involving many points of detail which cannot be determined at a distance, would be carried on more conveniently at Constantinople. He promised to convey my opinion to that effect to his Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 393.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Acting Consul Lyall.

(No. 3. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 29, 1879.*

THE reports of Her Majesty's Representatives in Anatolia lead to the belief that there are signs of a secret movement among the Armenians, aiming at the establishment of some form of Armenian autonomy.

I should be glad to receive from you, by any safe opportunity, a report of any circumstances within your knowledge calculated to confirm or correct this impression, and generally on the aspirations of the Armenian population, and their disposition towards Russia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 394.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Admiral Pothuau.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, September 29, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 24th instant, calling my attention to the delay which has arisen in settling the question of the Turco-Greek frontier, and in reply, I beg leave to state that I do not at present precisely know the objections entertained by Turkey to the formula suggested by the Greek Commissioners as a suitable basis for negotiation, nor am I aware what counter-formula is proposed on the part of Turkey.

I am, however, awaiting information on this point from Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople, and in the meanwhile, I have the honour to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government fully share the wishes of the French Government for an early settlement of this question, the postponement of which is exhausting the resources of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 395.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 829.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 16, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, extracted from the "Turquie" of this day, a paragraph respecting the liability to military service of the Christian population of Zeitoun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 395.

Extract from "La Turquie" of September 16, 1879.

LA "Gazette Militaire" donne une nouvelle très-importante. Elle annonce que la population Chrétienne de Zéitoun, dans la requête qu'elle a présentée aux Commissaires Impériaux, sollicite, entre autres, l'honneur de servir dans l'armée Impériale au même titre que les Musulmans.

Cette demande, approuvée par le Conseil des Ministres, a été sanctionnée par Iradé Impérial. En conséquence, les Chrétiens du district de Zéitoun seront appelés, dès cette année, à participer au service militaire. A cet effet, des ordres ont été donnés pour dresser les listes de conscription et pour faire les autres formalités préparatoires du tirage au sort.

Les conscrits seront incorporés dans le 5e Corps d'Armée, le district du Zéitoun relevant militairement du commandement de ce corps d'armée.

La Sublime Porte et le Séraskérat ont transmis en date du 13 Ramazan les instructions nécessaires au Gouverneur-Général d'Alep et au Commandant-en-chef du 5e Corps d'Armée de Damas.

No. 396.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 833.) *Therapia, September 22, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir Henry Layard's despatch to your Lordship No. 710 of the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul-General Blunt, reporting upon the statements made by Mr. Rose, the correspondent of the "Scotsman" newspaper, relative to the state of Macedonia.

In compliance with your Lordship's instructions, I return the printed inclosure forwarded to his Excellency in your Lordship's despatch No. 1000 upon the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 396.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, September 5, 1879.

Sir,

I RECEIVED, on the 19th ultimo, your Excellency's despatch of the 9th ultimo, forwarding certain printed letters from Mr. W. Rose, the late correspondent of the "Scotsman," relative to the present state of Macedonia, and instructing me to furnish your Excellency with a Report on the statements they contain.

In returning these letters herewith inclosed to your Excellency I have the honour to state that I am not at present in a position either to confirm or deny the outrages which are described as having occurred in the Provinces of Monastir and Uscup. In order to obtain the fullest details, and fathom the whole truth of those alleged occurrences, it would be necessary for me to visit the localities named by Mr. Rose; but as my duties do not admit of my absence from Salonica at the present moment, I have applied for information on the subject to the Austro-Hungarian Consul-General at Monastir, who is now in charge of British interests there, and I have also requested an English gentleman, whose duties frequently call him to Uscup, to make inquiries into the state of affairs there. I fear, however, from all I learn from persons who have recently come here from Monastir and Uscup, that the inhabitants of those districts have suffered considerably from the depredations of the numerous bands of Albanian, Greek, Wallach, and Bulgarian robbers who infest the country.

With respect to the statements which more directly affect the administration of the Province of Salonica, I have embodied in the inclosed Report the facts of most of the cases as I have been enabled to verify them. Although most of the acts of cruelty and oppression recorded by Mr. Rose are comparatively of old date, some having occurred before and others immediately after the late war, still the Vilayet of Salonica, as your Excellency will have gathered from my previous Reports, is in a very unsatisfactory state, and its mal-administration calls loudly for the attention of the Government.

The corruption of the Law Courts, the dilapidation of the public revenue, the impunity with which crimes continue to be committed, the undue and vexatious exercise of power by the courts-martial, the large number of war fugitives dispersed all over the country, the misconduct of the Bashi-Bazouks and Kirserdars who are employed in the rural police, and, above all, the general insecurity of life and property, are the most prominent evils that oppress the country, and have produced among all classes a feeling of alarm, depression, and discontent. Doubtless, this deplorable state of affairs has, in a great measure, been promoted by the disturbing influences of the late disastrous war and the insurrectionary propaganda from Greece, Bulgaria, and Roumelia; and although, in my humble opinion, no radical reforms can be successfully applied in Macedonia until the

Greco-Turkish difficulty is satisfactorily arranged, and the Roumelian and Bulgarian Administrations are firmly established and conducted, some steps should, in the meantime, be adopted by the Porte for the purpose of checking misgovernment.

Nothing has been done in this direction further than the appointment and arrival at Salonica of Tahsin Bey, as Inspector-General of Tribunals, and Hassan Bey, as Procurator-General, who are charged with the reorganization of the local Courts of Law, and the superintendence of the administration and execution of justice.

Tahsin Bey has already suspended the President of the Davi Medjliss Civil Court of Nevrocop, and has instituted proceedings against him for abuse of authority. He is also inquiring into serious charges brought against other district Judges, and he told me that Said Pasha has directed him, in consequence of your Excellency's representations, to proceed to Cavalla and Drama, and searchingly inquire into the alleged corruption of the local Courts reported in my despatch of the 10th June, 1879.

These are steps in the right direction, and will be productive of some good if Tahsin Bey's powers and good intentions are adequately supported by the Minister of Justice; but further remedial measures are necessary to correct the evil, and I trust your Excellency will pardon me if I venture to submit the following suggestions that occur to me as most suitable to the circumstances under consideration:—

1. The present Governor-General, Rifaat Pasha, should be replaced by one more equal to the situation, for at no time has the presence of an able and energetic Administrator been more urgently needed in Macedonia.

2. Strict orders should be sent to the provincial authorities to discharge all the Bashi-Bazouks and Kirserdars who are employed in the rural police, and to replace them by a proper gendarmerie, organized on the same footing as the one introduced into the Vilayet of Adrianople. An efficient police is considered of such primary necessity by the inhabitants that they would, I am assured, readily contribute a special tax towards its organization and maintenance. Above all, the Porte ought to put a stop to the practice of employing in the police of the provinces pardoned brigands, some of them most notorious malefactors.

It is a notorious fact that some of the districts of Salonica and Monastir are confided to the protection of such characters, who now commit, by authority as it were, all manner of vexations on the inoffensive inhabitants. It is impossible to establish order and tranquillity with such criminal instruments, and the consequence is that, notwithstanding the efforts made by the military in that direction, the country is literally swarming with lawless characters, and not a day passes without advices being received of highway robberies and murders occurring in the interior, particularly in the Sandjaks of Salonica, Serres, and Monastir.

3. The state of siege to which this province has been subjected for the last two years should be discontinued. The Courts-martial instituted under this régime have completely set aside the civil power, and their irregular and oppressive proceedings give rise to very serious grievances on the part of the inhabitants, and are thoroughly condemned by public opinion.

The information which I have occasionally reported to your Excellency on this head has been derived from various trustworthy sources, but if called in question would, I have no doubt, be corroborated by Tahsin Bey.

4. A Commission of Inquiry should be appointed into the public account of the province, to be composed of persons unconnected with the Local Government, and to include, if practicable, one of the Directors of the Ottoman Bank.

I have been informed by persons who are intimately acquainted with the administration of the provincial revenue that gross corruption and abuses are practised in the collection of the various taxes, and that the Government has actually been defrauded of fully one-fourth of the tithes collected in 1877-78.

I believe that the present Defterdar, Rifaat Bey, who has the reputation of being honest and upright, recently called the attention of the Minister of Finance to this deplorable state of affairs, and asked that a Special Commission should be sent to Salonica with full powers to investigate the accounts and to prosecute the officials who may have embezzled public money.

5. Some serious step should be promptly taken to insure the early repatriation of the large numbers of Mussulman fugitives in Macedonia from Roumelia, &c.

These poor fugitives form a disturbing element, for besides the expense and embarrassment they cause to the Administration and the inhabitants, the ill-treatment they have suffered, and the hardships they are enduring from being deprived of their property affect the public mind and excite feelings of irritation and revenge among the fanatical and turbulent Mahommedans.

There are at present, I am assured, more than 200,000 of them in the Vilayets of Salonica, Cossova, and Monastir, 61,735 of whom are distributed as follows in the three sandjaks of the Vilayet of Salonica:—

Town and district of—		
Salonica		6,501
Yeni-jé		662
Kupruli		6,140
Vodena		282
Tikirsh		1,427
Stromdja		2,275
Avret-hissar		800
Caraferia		600
Cassandra		800
Douair		1,270
Catterina		350
Lanzaun		310
		20,538
Sandjak of Salonica		21,612
,, Serres		16,585
,, Drama		2,600
		61,735

These unfortunate outcasts have nothing left but their lives; very few of them can find employment, many die from sickness and want, and some are forced by necessity to rob and plunder. Their distress will be aggravated during the approaching winter, for the maize crop, which forms the staple food of the country, has failed in Macedonia this year. With starvation staring them in the face, they hope, and patiently hope, that their fate will excite the sympathy and compassion of civilized Europe, and that the Great Powers will assist them in recovering their lands and obtaining some redress for their wrongs.

One important result of the exodus of so large a quantity of the working population from Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia which, irrespective of humanitarian considerations, should demand the most serious reflection, will be diminution of the productive resources of those two provinces, and, consequently, a sensible decrease of their revenues, especially as their Christian population is not redundant enough to admit of its occupying and cultivating the fertile lands of the fugitives, who belong to the peasant class of small proprietors, the most frugal, useful, and industrious element of European Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 396.

Report by Consul-General Blunt upon some of the Statements contained in Mr. Rose's Letters relative to the Position in Macedonia.

Imprisonment and Severe Treatment of the Greek Baboura, who was accused of Collusion with Brigands.

MR. ACTING CONSUL BARKER reported the circumstances of this case to Mr. Malet in his despatch of the 6th March last, and the latter addressed to the Porte a representation on the subject, but, in the meantime, Baboura died at Larissa towards the end of March. My attention having also been called to the case by M. Bizzo when I was in Thessaly, I at once expostulated with the Commander-in-chief, Abdi Pasha, against the proceedings of the Military Court of Salonica, and strongly urged that they should be inquired into.

Abdi Pasha thereupon telegraphed to Salih Pasha, the Divisional Commander at Salonica, to transfer the case to Larissa, but Salih Pasha objected to this course, on the ground that the Court-martial had already given a sentence convicting Baboura of collusion with brigands, and condemning him to three years' labour.

Abdi Pasha, however, after further remonstrances on my part, overruled Salih Pasha's objections, and caused Baboura, with all the documents referring to his case, to be transferred to Larissa, where he unfortunately died a few days after the local Court-martial had recommended the Commander-in-chief to submit the case to revision to the Turkish War Office.

When Abdi Pasha heard that Baboura was ill, he had him removed from the debtors' prison to the house of a native Greek, M. Douka, who kindly offered to take care of him; and directed two military doctors, a Greek and a Jew, to attend him. From all I have since heard of this case, there is no doubt that Baboura was treated with unnecessary harshness and severity by the military authorities at Salonica; and, what is more, there is strong ground to think that he was unfairly tried and wrongfully convicted by the Court-martial.

I regret to say that the Turkish War Office has taken no notice that I have heard of the arbitrary proceedings of this Court in Baboura's case.

Outrages on M. Bizzo's Farm at Catterina.

I have been assured by M. Bizzo that these outrages were perpetrated in the month of March 1879 by a band of Greek brigands, under the leadership of the notorious ruffian Nicko, a native of Rendina, who, besides committing numerous highway robberies in the districts of Catterina and Caraferia, has murdered no less than fourteen Turks and Christians, including a child scarcely 8 years old.

Mr. Malet, to whom I reported the circumstances from Larissa, at once moved the Porte to telegraph stringent orders to the Pasha of Salonica to apprehend and punish the perpetrators; but, although serious efforts were made by the military to carry out these orders, Nicko and his band successfully elided pursuit, and eventually, after committing further outrages, escaped in a sailing vessel to the Greek Island of Skiathos. I now learn that some members of this band have been apprehended in Greece, and that my Hellenic colleague here has been instructed by his Government to procure evidence of their misdeeds in Macedonia.

I should add, with reference to this case, that M. Bizzo has no Bulgarian tenants at his farm at Catterina (the Slav element does not spread so far south in Macedonia), and that it was not M. Bizzo's mother who was massacred, but the mother of his Greek tenant, by name Goudi, who also suffered the same fate from these brigands; nor was it a Greek peasant, but a Turkish guard, named Redget, who was severely wounded by the brigands while gallantly defending, with three other guards, two Christians and a Turk, the lives and properties of M. Bizzo's tenants.*

The desperate resistance offered by those four brave men protected the people at M. Bizzo's farm from further bloodshed, and forced the brigands to beat a retreat, after two of their number had been killed and one wounded.

The chief Nicko cut off and carried away the heads of these two brigands, in order to prevent their identification.

Capture of M. Kelesh Nasko by Brigands.

M. Kelesh Nasko, a Greek of Salonica, was captured in April last by Nicko and a party of the same band of brigands that attacked M. Bizzo's farm, as reported above.

These desperate outlaws surrounded M. Kelesh Nasko's farm, and, after killing a Turkish guard and some of the tenants who offered some resistance, seized the proprietor and carried him off to the mountains, where they detained him until his family procured and paid to his captors the large ransom of 2,000*l.*

From what M. Kelesh Nasko told me, and from all that I have heard from independent and impartial sources, there is not the slightest foundation for the suspicion expressed by Mr. Rose, that the Governor-General of Salonica, Rifaat Pasha, connived at this act of brigandage or shared in the plunder.

I have also been assured by M. Kelesh Nasko that the captors were not Turks, but Christians; that they all paid scrupulous attention to their religious observances; and that they set apart a certain portion of their plunder for presentation to one of the numerous Greek monasteries in Mount Olympus, in the hope of propitiating the favour of the Virgin Mary.

I must not omit to add that M. Kelesh Nasko was well acquainted with the brigand chief, Nicko, and some of his confederates, before they effected his capture, having received them more than once at his farm at Palatiza. About fifteen days before they carried him off he had presented to Nicko a gold watch, and to his brother a rifle and telescope.

Murder of Pentefunta.

The murderers were not zaptiehs (policemen) but Tosca Albanians, who were employed by Yayis Bey as "bektchies," or "gardes champêtres" on his estates in the district of Caraferia.

* Mr. Rose states that "although this outrage has been committed upon the property of a British officia and whose mother and tenant have been massacred," &c.

Although Yayia was generally hated and feared by the peasants, and was accused of many acts of oppression, there is no evidence to prove that he connived at this particular outrage. However that may be, the very individuals who are supposed to have murdered Pentefunta subsequently murdered Yayia Bey under the most revolting circumstances.

Imprisonment of Pentefunta's Son.

This young man joined the Greek insurgents who invaded the districts of Mount Olympus early in 1878, and returned with them to Greece upon the suspension of hostilities and the proclamation of the Sultan's amnesty in the month of May of the same year. In the following month he came back to Salonica, and was arrested and imprisoned for six days by the Ottoman authorities on a criminal charge preferred by two Jews, which charge was subsequently withdrawn, and this young ex-insurgent has been living quietly at his village since the month of July 1878, and has suffered no molestation in consequence of the active part he took in the insurrection.

I may add that, on the whole, the conditions of the Amnesty Decree have been faithfully observed by the Ottoman provisional authorities, for of the eighty-one native Greek insurgents why returned from Greece to Macedonia in 1878, only two, besides Pentefunta, were arrested, and they were almost immediately released upon showing that they were included in the amnesty.

Case of a Macedonian Convert to Christianity.

This convert, whose original name was Ali, left his village (Portaria, about 10 hours from Salonica) in 1870 and went to Athens, where he embraced the Christian faith, and shortly after returned to his home. At first he suffered some persecution from his Turkish neighbours, but his landlord, also a Turk, interfered and kindly protected him; he next married, and for five or six years met with no further molestation. Early in 1878 the local military authorities discovered that this individual was registered in the cadres of the Redif, who were under arms, and summoned him, in consequence, to join his battalion or pay the regulation price for a substitute, about 45*l*. As he declined to comply with this summons the civil authorities arrested him, but he was released shortly after through the intervention of the Greek Archbishop. In the meantime, the War Office, having been consulted in the matter, directed the Pasha not to exempt the man from military service unless he produced a substitute or paid the regulation price for one. As he would not, or rather could not, comply with this condition, he was again apprehended, and, after a short imprisonment in the citadel, was sent to Monastir, the head-quarters of the 3rd Corps d'Armée, and there drafted into one of the Redif battalions.

The man claimed exemption from military service because he professed the Christian religion and had paid, during eight years, the military commutation tax (about 35 piastres per annum); but according to the Turkish law no Mahoomedan can absolve himself from the military service he owes to the State merely by changing his religion.

Deportation of M. Perdicari.

It is not accurate that a whole family of the name of Perdicari were apprehended by the zaptichs at the village, or rather township, of Niausta.

A M. Emmanuel Perdicari, about 30 years of age, the son of an Ottoman subject, and who practised as Advocate in the Turkish Courts at Niausta and Caraferia, was arrested early in the month of June, and brought to Salonica by the local police, acting under orders from the military.

The Hellenic Consul-General at once demanded his release, on the ground of his being a naturalized Hellenic subject; but, although I supported my colleague's representations, the military authorities declined to give him up, stating that they had received orders to send him to Constantinople. He was accordingly sent to Constantinople, and his father shortly after followed him, furnished with a letter of recommendation from me to Sir Alfred Sandison.

I unofficially interfered in the matter, as M. Perdicari was arrested by the authorities while on his way to Samakof, in Bulgaria, to act as Messrs. Bizzo Brothers' Advocate in a civil suit about some real property in which they were interested at Kustendil.

I have not yet been able to learn the real property in which they were interested in Kustendil.

I have not yet been able to learn the real cause of M. Perdicari's arrest, but from all I gather I doubt if the military authorities can bring anything more serious against him than the freedom with which he used to express his phil-Hellenic sentiments. I have

since been informed that the military here are empowered to expel any person whose presence they consider detrimental to the public safety of the province.

Murder of a Turk in a Greek Coffee-house.

The victim of this case was not a Turk but a Persian; his murderers are two young Turks, natives of this town. On the 27th June last, about sunset, the Persian, Kerim by name, entered the Greek's coffee-house, and without any provocation addressed some offensive words to the two Turks, and upon the latter retorting a quarrel ensued, followed by a fight, in which the Persian was killed by one of the Turks with a bread-knife he had in his possession.

Several Persians in the vicinity hearing of the murder went to the coffee-house, and not finding the murderers, who had escaped in the meantime, seized the proprietor of the coffee-house, and would have torn him to pieces but for the timely intervention of the police, assisted by the Persian Consul, Issa Bey, who, in order to quiet his infuriated countrymen, caused the Greek-Cafedji to be arrested and conducted to prison. The man was subsequently discharged by the authorities, as there was no evidence to prove that he was implicated in the murder. The murderers have not yet been apprehended, and the Persians are still very excited and have sworn to have "blood for blood."

Murder of a Christian Peasant by a Hodja.

The name of the murderer is Hadji Hussein, Hodja of the village of Essenli, that of his victim Nicola Patcha, a Greek peasant of the village of Hortiacle, four hours from Salonica.

This murder was committed four years ago under the circumstances related by Mr. Rose, and the murderer, after having been confined more than two years in a mosque at Salonica, was discharged early in 1878, although there was, I am credibly informed, ample evidence, both oral and circumstantial, to prove his guilt. The relatives of the murdered man, failing to obtain redress, memorialized the Governor-General for a new trial, but to no purpose; they next represented the case to the Greek Patriarchate at Constantinople, but with what result I have not yet been able to learn, and they now propose to place the matter in the hands of the Procurator-General, a new office recently instituted in the vilayet for the prosecution of criminal cases.

Bulgarian Girl Assaulted and Violated by a Zaptieh.

It is not a zaptieh (policeman) but a bektchi (garde champêtre) named Mahmoud, employed by the village commune of Oteshno, who is accused of this outrage.

The parents of the girl, having failed to obtain redress at Kupruli, came to Salonica and appealed to the Governor-General, who caused the accused to be apprehended and brought here for trial. The case is still pending before the local Criminal Court, and the man is in prison.

The Governor-General told me that this particular outrage was only verbally brought under his notice by the Acting Russian Consul-General.

Greek Merchant Nicolaieff carried off by Brigands from Governor's Konak at Veria.

Colonel Synge, whose farm is about two hours' ride from Veria, and who visited that town more than once between the months of February and June of this year, does not mention this outrage in the correspondence with me, nor have I been able to obtain any information confirming the occurrence.

Capture of several Jews by Brigands.

The circumstances of this case were reported as follows by Mr. Acting Consul Barker:—

"The ransom demanded was 1,000 Turkish liras, but no more than 350 liras were collected by the Israelite community through the exertions of the Rabbi Inda Nehamiah, and the money was sent by a Greek to deliver it to the brigands. At first 100 liras were sent, which were scornfully sent back, and then 350 liras, but it happened that when the messenger arrived a brush was taking place between the brigands and the Turkish troops, and then in the confusion the three Jews escaped, as also the Greek with the money. He was pursued by the brigands, but succeeded in getting clear off and returned with the money. Your Excellency may rely on the correctness of these details, because I have them from the Rabbi himself who collected the money and sent it; 80 Turkish liras

were collected and paid by the community here for the liberation of a Jew who was carried off by the brigands at or near Litochovo."

Early in the month of April of the present year a poor Jew was murdered by the brigands in the vicinity of Litochovo, in the district of Catterina, where also, in the following month, two other Jews, by name Bamborato and Samuel Amar, were carried off as hostages by Nicko's band of brigands, and only effected their release by paying a ransom of 100*l.* and 30*l.*

Christians Smoked to Death, and other Atrocities.

Reports of such atrocities having been committed in 1877-78 by Circassians and Ghega Albanians were brought under the notice of Mr. Acting Consul Barker and some of the foreign Consuls at Salonica.

Mr. Barker's despatches to Her Majesty's Embassy and Foreign Office furnish information on these matters, particularly in regard to the case of a Christian who was plundered and burnt by Turkish robbers in district of Monastir (May 1877).

The Consuls have also heard of similar and worse outrages, said to have been committed by Turks and Bulgarians on each other in the northern districts of Macedonia, particularly in districts of Kustendil and Djuma during their occupation by the Russian troops; but I am unable to say what foundation there is for these statements, as I was not at Salonica at that time, and no official inquiries have been instituted to learn the truth. I fear, however, that both sides have been guilty of wanton destruction, attended by deeds of barbarity; but in a place like Salonica, where there are more than one dozen nationalities, some upholding the Turks or Greeks, others the Bulgarians, and all more or less biassed and prejudiced, it is most difficult to ascertain the truth of the sensational "atrocity" reports which are circulated.

Bribery and Corruption.

With reference to the allegations affecting the conduct and character of Rifaat Pasha, Governor-General of Salonica, particularly in the civil suit between Tiano and Iranses, there are persons who say that the Pasha has been bribed by Tiano; but one cannot rely easily on their word, for they will not stand by what they say, and hold one language to me and another to other parties.

Again, with reference to the part Rifaat Pasha is said to have played in the recapture of the notorious brigand whose escape from the convict prison was surreptitiously and somewhat ludicrously effected by the doctor (a foreign subject) of the Municipality during the administration of Akif Pasha in 1866-69, I am assured by M. Bizzo that Rifaat Pasha's name can in no way be involved in the matter for the very simple reason that the brigand in question was killed in an encounter with the police three or four years before he (Rifaat Pasha) was appointed to the Governor-Generalship of this province.

I regret to say, however, that the suspected venality of Rifaat Pasha is a recurring subject for the comments of all parties at this place; also, that the Courts of Justice here and in the interior are amenable to the seduction of bribery; but, although one daily hears that this practice is freely availed of by litigants, it is most difficult to obtain proof, owing to the fact that the Turkish law considers the giver of a bribe as guilty as the receiver of it.

M. Klundt's Arrest.

I reported the circumstances of his arrest in my despatch of the 30th June, 1879. M. Klundt is an Ottoman, and not a British subject. He is employed at Uskup as "colporteur" by the agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society at Constantinople.

The work M. Klundt is engaged in, that of selling Bibles and religious tracts to the Christian peasants in the villages, gives great umbrage to some of the native clergy, who occasionally get him into trouble by insinuating to the Ottoman authorities that he is distributing revolutionary pamphlets.

Abeddin Agha.

I have reported the misdeeds of this notorious criminal in my correspondence from Thessaly. In my despatch of the 16th December, 1878, I reported as follows on the result of the representations made by me to Ali Sahib Pasha, the late Commander-in-chief in that province:—

"With reference to the information contained in a letter of the 14th November last, copy of which was inclosed in my Report of the 19th idem, relative to a certain

Abeddin Agha, an Albanian robber chief, who, after committing numerous acts of murder and rapine in the district of Giorteha, has been pardoned, together with all his band, by the Governor-General of Salonica, and intrusted, as Kirserdar, with the police of that district.

"I am glad to say that, upon my bringing to the knowledge of Ali Saib Pasha the circumstances referred to by my correspondent, as well as other similar information I have since obtained relative to the misdeeds of this dangerous individual, his Excellency telegraphed to the Governor-General of Salonica, strongly urging him not only to dispense with the services of Abeddin Agha, but also to take efficient precautionary measures to prevent him from returning to his criminal pursuits."

The Governor-General of Salonica declined to carry out Ali Saib Pasha's recommendations, and I very much regret to say that the authorities of Monastir continue to employ Abeddin in the police of that province.

Brigandage, Bashi-Bazouks, Circassians, Zaptiehs, and Military Courts-Martial.

I have furnished ample information on the above heads in the Reports which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy, particularly those noted in the margin,* since the 16th April last, when I resumed my duties here.

The Governor-General, Rifaat Pasha, is very much to blame for employing the Bashi-Bazouks, and responsible in a great measure for their excesses. I have again and again remonstrated with him in forcible terms upon this matter, and it was only lately, as I had the honour to report to Her Majesty's Embassy in my despatch of the 29th ultimo, that I succeeded in getting him to act with some energy against those irregulars and the Circassians in the districts of Catterina and Caraferia.

He has caused the Bashi-Bazouks to be disbanded and sent from those two districts, and I have been urging him to apply this measure generally to the rest of the province.

Of the sixty-three Circassian families who are known to have returned to Catterina from Syria, fifty-six have been removed to Salonica, where they are detained till means of transport are available for their conveyance to Alexandretta.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Salonica, September 4, 1879.

No. 397.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 30.*)

(No. 834.) *Therapia, September 22, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir Henry Layard's despatch No. 506 of the 16th June last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a *note verbale* addressed to his Excellency by the Porte containing Kiamil Pasha's denial of the charge brought against him by Mr. Henderson of intercepting his letters. This document has been communicated to Mr. Henderson, and I inclose copy of a despatch from that gentleman commenting upon Kiamil Pasha's statements.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 397.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, le 12 Juillet, 1879.

LE Ministère des Affaires Etrangères a reçu la note verbale que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique a bien voulu lui adresser le 21 Mai, relativement aux plaintes de Mr. Henderson contre l'ex-Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet d'Alep.

Kiamil Pasha, à qui cette note avait été communiquée, vient de soumettre, en réponse à la Sublime Porte, un rapport réfutant les accusations de M. le Consul-Général d'Angleterre à Alep.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères a l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à l'Ambassade

* May 7, 10, 19; June 10 (two), 22, 24, 30; July 2, 8, 15, 20, 29; August 11, 1879.

de Sa Majesté Britannique la traduction de ce Rapport, dont le contenu diffère essentiellement des informations de Mr. Henderson.

Inclosure 2 in No. 397.

Report by Kiamil Pasha.

(Traduction.)

PAR sa lettre du 25 Djemaji-ul-Akher, 1296, votre Excellence, en me transmettant la traduction d'une note de l'Ambassadeur Britannique, affirment que des lettres adressées à Mr. Henderson, Consul d'Angleterre, auraient été interceptées sous mon Gouvernement Général à Alep, m'invitait à lui communiquer mes renseignements et mes observations sur le contenu de cette note.

J'ai reçu et lu la susdite traduction que votre Excellence m'ordonnait de lui retourner. Il n'est pas vrai que des lettres adressées au Consul d'Angleterre aient été interceptées par moi; seulement la police avait adopté une règle d'après laquelle les écrits destinés aux Zéitouniens détenus à Marache passaient par les mains des fonctionnaires, qui les présentaient au Mutessarif pour être traduits. C'est après avoir pris connaissance du contenu de ces écrits qu'on les remettait à leurs destinataires.

Par application de cette mesure les fonctionnaires ont saisi une lettre, et l'ont transmise au Général de Brigade, Mazhar Pasha, alors Gouverneur *ad intérim*. On l'a lue, et on a constaté qu'il s'agissait d'une adresse couverte de quinze signatures que Babik, Chef d'Insurgés à Zéitoun, envoyait au Consul d'Angleterre. Cette lettre, dont le contenu était digne d'une attention toute particulière, a été retenue pour être communiquée au chef-lieu du vilayet, après avoir été transcrite en caractères Turcs, et visé par le Conseil d'Administration de Marache. Il résultait de la lecture de l'adresse qu'un conciliabule ayant été précédemment tenu entre les signataires et le Consul, les insurgés agissaient, et continueraient à agir, selon ses ordres.

Que Mr. Henderson eût le droit de s'immiscer dans les affaires intérieures du vilayet, nous n'avions reçu de la Porte aucune instruction à cet égard; aussi avons-nous été étonnés de le voir se mettre en communication avec les insurgés de Zéitoun à l'insu des autorités locales.

Nous avions signalé le fait à votre Excellence tout en lui transmettant en caractères Turcs l'adresse, ainsi que plus tard l'original écrit en langue Turque et en caractères Arméniens.

La confrontation de cette double pièce réduirait à néant l'assertion d'après laquelle les expressions auraient été dénaturées ou traduites. Le fonctionnaire Musulman qui a fait l'espionnage à Mr. Henderson, quel qu'il soit, n'a pu que tromper sa bonne foi.

Quant à Sukiyass Effendi, qu'on dit avoir été mon instrument dans toutes les cruautés commises envers les Arméniens, et qui pour ces services aurait été nommé membre du Tribunal de Commerce d'Alep, cette personne ne m'a point accompagné à Zéitoun lors de la répression des troubles qui y ont éclaté; seulement, lorsqu'une insurrection eut pris fin nous lui avons écrit de se rendre à Zéitoun après accord avec l'Archevêque de Marache, dans le but d'exhorter Babik, en lui donnant les assurances nécessaires, à se soumettre à l'autorité. Si Sukiyass Effendi a été chargé de cette mission, c'est que Babik appartient à la communauté Arménienne Catholique, et que la personne choisie pour le ramener à la voie du devoir joint à la confiance de l'autorité la qualité de Notable en chef de la dite communauté dans tout le Vilayet d'Alep, et l'agent commis par le Patriarcat à l'expédition des affaires concernant l'Archevêque d'Alep.

L'arrivée de Sukiyass Effendi à Zéitoun a coïncidé avec mon départ. Sa présence en cette localité n'a duré que quelques heures, et ses services se réduisent à son entente avec l'Archevêque pour l'envoi d'un prêtre chargé d'offrir des assurances à Babik.

La qualification de cruauté attribuée à l'emploi d'un intermédiaire tout de bienveillance et aux mesures grâce auxquelles l'affaire de Zéitoun a été terminé sans que personne eût été lésée, cette qualification, dis-je, est une pure calomnie; d'autre part, Sukiyass Effendi jouit de la confiance publique à Alep; sa nomination comme membre du Tribunal de Commerce remonte à une époque bien antérieure à son voyage à Zéitoun. L'assertion d'après laquelle cette nomination aurait eu lieu en récompense de ses services Zéitoun n'a donc pas de raison d'être.

Inclosure 3 in No. 397.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, August 20, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 13th July, and, in reply, I have to state that the assertions of Kiamil Pasha as regards the stolen letter are, as usual, a tissue of malicious misstatements. It has now been proved that the letter is an impudent forgery, and the Imperial Commissioners have been obliged to admit this in their Report to the Sublime Porte, but I would ask your Excellency to procure a copy of the Report from the Porte.

The author of the forged document must have been perfectly cognizant of the purport of the confidential correspondence of the vilayet with the Porte, as the statements in the forged letter are reproductions of Kiamil Pasha's malicious insinuations to the Porte.

As regards Sukyass Effendi he is well known to have been Kiamil Pasha's banker and factotum, and his mission to Zeitoun, instead of being of a semi-political kind, as Kiamil Pasha asserts, had a very different character. But it is notorious throughout the whole vilayet that he is a Russian Armenian of the most indifferent character, and his renunciation of his Russian nationality and ostensible connection with the Russian Agent was a clever intrigue to deceive the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 398.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 835.)

Therapia, September 22, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir Henry Layard's telegram to your Lordship No. 656 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Brophy giving an account of an encounter which recently took place in the Aidos Balkan between a band of armed Mussulmans and the Eastern Roumelian militia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 398.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, September 16, 1879.

Sir,

ON the 10th I had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency in cypher as follows:—

"Authorities report skirmish in Aidos Balkans between militia, police, and armed bands. Militia was beaten with loss of twenty-two killed, wounded, and missing; reinforcements have been sent from here. Details are wanting, but if affairs become serious I will telegraph again."

The history of the incident is as follows:—An officer of militia stationed at Buyuk Tchenge applied for more troops, and a detachment of thirty-three infantry and fifteen mounted police was dispatched on the 9th. Near the village of Topjou Mahalissi, in the Aidos Balkans, they were attacked by a band of thirty-five armed Turks, and an engagement took place which lasted two hours and a-half; finally the militia fled in great disorder, but carried away seven wounded including their officer. Sixteen soldiers were left on the field, while only one Turk was wounded. The leader of this band is a certain Tchoban Hassan, of Achialo, and, with the exception of four or five from Aidos, the rest are all from Bulgaria. Some of them are mounted; they are all old soldiers, and armed with Martini rifles. They are now somewhere on the banks of the River Canikik, and the hundreds of militia sent into the district seem thoroughly disinclined to follow them, the men, the inferiority of their rifles, and even the Russian officers saying that it is useless to lead their men to certain death. I do not think it probable that this band will venture any further forward movement, as the Turks of the Aidos Balkans refuse to join them.

The causes which led to the fight at Topjou are worthy of notice. During the last winter and spring it was known that Tchoban Hassan, with a score of armed followers, was living amongst the Aidos mountains, and to this man's account were placed all the crimes committed on Christians in the district, and many of those from which Mussulmans suffered. Russian troops, militia, and police, were frequently sent to catch him, but never succeeded in catching a glimpse of him. Two months since, when Hafiz Effendi was commissioned by the Prefect to inquire into the state of the Aidos Balkans, he sent for Hassan, and being convinced that he had never either murdered or robbed a single Mussulman or Christian, but had only taken to the mountain to escape the ill-treatment of the Bulgarians, offered him a safe conduct from the Prefect, on condition of his finding security for himself and his men, and return into civil life; he and his followers were also allowed to retain their arms.

Shortly after Hassan, who had settled down quietly, was poisoned by his mother-in-law, who mixed some deleterious drug in his tobacco, and who it is said received 5,000 piastres from a Bulgarian to commit the crime. Recovering from this attempt on his life, Hassan, perhaps with a view to obtain a superior class of mother-in-law, took to himself another wife. Three days after his marriage the village was attacked at night by armed Bulgarians. Hassan and some of his men sallied out, fired a few shots, and the Bulgarians fled, leaving nine or ten horses and some kalpaks, which were given up to the Bulgarians.

On the 5th September Hassan and his wife were living quietly in the village of Kara Ahmet, when Captain Nabokoff, the Russian officer commanding the militia, with eight soldiers, came and asked at night for the house of Ahmed. I believe his object was to engage Hassan to take some soldiers and arrest seventeen Turks who had recently killed two Bulgarians. As the house was not immediately pointed out, Captain Nabokoff began to beat and abuse the villagers, upon which one of Hassan's men told his Chief that soldiers had come to arrest him. Hassan then rushed out, fired some shots at random, and run away on one side, whilst Captain Nabokoff and his men had collected militia and 200 armed Bulgarians from Tehumé, and marched on the village of Kara Ahmed. No resistance being offered to the troops, regular and irregular, entered and commenced plundering the houses and violating the women. After these exploits Captain Nabokoff sent two Turkish prisoners to Bourgas without any officer, and without a word of report. They were released by the Prefect a few days after, as there was no evidence against them. Captain Nabokoff then fell ill, it is said from the effect of the fight on the night of the 5th, and is now nursing himself at Pravadi.

When Hassan heard these things, he still believing that it had been intended to arrest him, in spite of his safe conduct, swore revenge, hastily assembled a few men, and the result was Topjou, for which your Excellency will think, as I do, that Captain Nabokoff is morally responsible.

Hafiz Effendi again returned yesterday from the Balkans with seven Turkish prisoners, two of whom were in the fight on the 9th. I believe that so far he has executed a most difficult task with great tact, courage, and intelligence.

I regret to have to record my opinion, based upon facts, that the militia now quartered in this department are nothing more than an undisciplined rabble of plundering ruffians, half of whom would in England be sentenced to penal servitude, and that they are commanded by officers of whom half in England would be brought to court-martial and cashiered.

I am aware that I am using unusually strong language, but I believe it to be justified by known facts, many of which I have already reported to your Excellency.

Whilst Hafiz Effendi was in a Turkish village a Turkish woman came to him sobbing bitterly; on inquiry it appeared a soldier of the militia had attempted to outrage her, drawing his bayonet and putting it to her throat; she was saved by the timely arrival of other women; the soldier was one of the company told off to escort Hafiz Effendi. That gentleman's personal attendant, a zaptieh, amused himself in the same village by stealing a quantity of honey belonging to an old Turk, and worth about 4s. I may add that whenever militia stop at a Turkish village they eat or destroy all the produce of the vineyards.

Captain Petrim, a Russian, commanding the militia at Aidos, said yesterday to the Prefect, "If you send Hafiz Effendi again to the Balkans I am afraid my men will kill him, and if I attempt to save him they will kill me."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BROPHY.

No. 399.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 839.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the Protocol of the third meeting of the Commissioners on the Greek Frontier question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 399.

Protocole No. 3.—*Séance du* $\frac{10 \text{ Août}}{9 \text{ Septembre}}$, 1879.

Présents :

Pour la Grèce—
Son Excellence M. A. G. Coundouriotis,
Son Excellence M. P. Braïlas Armeni,
Son Excellence M. Panos Colocotronis.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Altesse Safvet Pacha,
Son Excellence Ali Saïb Pacha,
Son Excellence Sawas Pacha.

LA séance qui avait été remise de deux jours est ouverte à 2 heures.

Son Excellence M. Coundouriotis présente à MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans M. le Major Panos Colocotronis, qui, ainsi qu'il a eu l'honneur d'annoncer à la dernière séance, a été désigné par son Gouvernement comme Plénipotentiaire.

Son Excellence M. Coundouriotis donne ensuite lecture du document suivant :—

"La réponse que MM. les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman se sont plu à donner dans la séance du Dimanche, $\frac{19}{31}$ Août, à la Déclaration faite par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes dans la première séance a deux parties bien distinctes :

"1. MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ayant été priés par leurs collègues Hellènes de déclarer s'ils acceptaient, comme base des négociations à reprendre, les stipulations du Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin, ont allégué, avant de répondre à cette question, que le Protocole No. 13 n'avait aucune force obligatoire, et ne contenait qu'un vœu du Congrès; ils ont invoqué les paroles prononcées dans le Congrès par son Excellence le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France, lors de la proposition faite par lui, et concernant la rectification des frontières Helléniques; ils ont répété les arguments mis en avant à Preveza par les Commissaires de la Sublime Porte, comme il appert des Protocoles Nos. 1 et 3 des séances des Commissaires des deux pays.

"2. Après cela, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, répondant à la question posée par leurs collègues Hellènes, à savoir, s'ils acceptaient ou non, comme base des négociations, à reprendre, les stipulations du Protocole No. 13, ils ont déclaré, 'qu'ils sont disposés par considération pour le vœu exprimé par les Puissances, à prendre comme base premières des négociations qui vont s'ouvrir, les indications mentionnées au dit Protocole, pourvu qu'il soit bien entendu que ces bases ne lient en aucune façon les deux Gouvernements, qui pourraient librement les discuter et les modifier au même titre que tel autre point de départ qui aurait pu être proposé par l'un ou l'autre des parties.'

"Quant à ce qui regarde la première partie de cette réponse des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, bien que les Commissaires du Gouvernement Hellénique à Preveza aient déjà réfuté de pareilles allégations, faites par les Commissaires Ottomans, comme il appert du Protocole No. 4 de leurs séances, néanmoins les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique ont l'honneur de faire remarquer que, si le Gouvernement Ottoman regarde le Protocole No. 13 comme n'ayant pour lui aucune force obligatoire, le Gouvernement Hellénique auquel par le susdit Protocole fut adressée la même invitation qu'à la Sublime Porte, le regarde comme ayant pour lui—le Gouvernement Hellénique—une force obligatoire; par conséquent, il pense ne pouvoir s'en écarter. Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes sont d'ailleurs d'avis que la manière de penser de chacune des deux parties sur la force du dit Protocole est un sujet étranger à la question posée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, qui ont prié leurs collègues de déclarer s'ils acceptent ou non les stipulations du Protocole No. 13 comme base des négociations à entamer.

"Quant à ce qui regarde la seconde partie de la réponse des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, ceux du Gouvernement Hellénique ont l'honneur de faire remarquer, que si leurs collègues acceptent comme base des négociations à reprendre des indications du Protocole No. 14, ainsi qu'ils l'ont déclaré, il ne serait par compatible avec une pareille Déclaration que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans se réservent néanmoins la faculté de modifier cette base, ou de s'en départir même pendant le cours des négociations. L'acceptation d'une base quelconque par les Plénipotentiaires des deux pays les oblige, les uns aussi bien que les autres, à ne pas s'éloigner de cette base. La liberté que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans voudraient réserver aux deux parties d'abandonner ou de modifier pendant le cours des négociations la base une fois posée, met complétement à néant leur décision de l'accepter.

"Pour ces causes les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, tout en étant d'avis que leur demande adressée à leurs collègues dans la première séance était suffisamment claire, se font un devoir de la leur adresser de nouveau, et prient leurs Excellences les Plénipotentiaires de la Sublime Porte de vouloir bien déclarer s'ils acceptent comme base de leurs négociations les indications du Protocole No. 13, à savoir, la vallée du Pénéus (Salambria) sur le versant de la Mer Egée, et celle du Kalamas du côté de la Mer Ionienne.

"Les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique aiment à espérer que leurs collègues Ottomans, animés de l'esprit de conciliation, qui seul pourrait mener à bonne fin l'arrangement de la question, voudront bien donner à cette demande une réponse claire et précise."

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha fait observer qu'il croit que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont déjà répondu à cette question et donné les raisons de leur réponse. Dès lors ils ne peuvent faire autrement que de la confirmer.

Son Altesse ajoute que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont toujours été très-disposés à entrer franchement en discussion sur la matière même des négociations, mais qu'ils en ont été malheureusement empêchés par des incidents, tels que cet échange de déclarations et d'interprétations, qui ne peuvent que compliquer ou entraver les négociations. C'est dans cet esprit que tout en constatant que les indications du Protocole No. 13 n'ont aucun caractère obligatoire, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont voulu mettre par leur réponse et ses conclusions la discussion sur un terrain pratique, et témoigner ainsi à la fois de la déférence de leur Gouvernement pour le vœu de l'Europe, et de son vif désir de maintenir et de consolider ses relations de bon voisinage avec la Grèce. Son Altesse croit au surplus être en conformité d'idées avec ses collègues Ottomans.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha s'associe pleinement aux paroles prononcées par son Altesse, et déclare qu'il partage entièrement sa pensée. La preuve en est, dit-il, qu'à la séance précédente il a vivement engagé son collègue, son Excellence M. Coundouriotis, à ne pas donner prématurément une réponse absolue qui serait de nature à arrêter les négociations. Toujours dans cette même pensée, il préfère, au lieu de s'appliquer à réfuter—ce qui lui serait facile de faire séance tenante—les allégations contenues dans la Déclaration qui vient d'être lue, insister pour qu'on se place sur le terrain de la pratique, en se bornant à rappeler que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ne se sont jamais écartés de l'esprit ni de la lettre des Protocoles du Congrès de Berlin.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha ajoute qu'effectivement chaque mot des Protocoles relatif à cette question proclame la nécessité de la discussion.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha, reprenant la parole, dit que si les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans n'ont pu se rendre entièrement à l'invitation de leurs collègues de Grèce, c'est que cette invitation consistait à leur demander de consentir un acte entièrement nouveau d'une haute gravité, et absolument étranger aux indications, aux idées, et aux vœux des Protocoles et du Traité de Berlin. Cet acte n'eut été autre que d'aliéner par l'adhésion des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans immédiatement, séance tenante, et sans discussion ni observation, tout un territoire. En effet, l'invitation des Plénipotentiaires Helléniques se réduisait à ces termes: "Venez signez sans examen la cession territoriale que nous vous demandons."

"Telle est," continue Sawas Pacha, "la situation qui nous a été créée jusqu'ici par les Déclarations de nos honorables collègues de Grèce; mais que la discussion soit au contraire ouverte dans des conditions normales, et les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans seront heureux de l'aborder et de chercher avec MM. les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques les moyens d'arriver à l'entente désirée."

Son Excellence M. Bratiás constate avec plaisir les dispositions conciliantes de son Altesse Safvet Pacha et il l'en félicite. Profitant de la proposition mise en avant par son Altesse, il n'a pas de difficulté d'aborder le côté pratique de la question. Il ne s'occupera pas de la question de droit, à savoir, si le Protocole No. 13 est obligatoire ou non, car il comprend que sur cette question les deux parties persisteront dans leur opinion. "Vous

ne pouvez pas," dit-il, "nous imposer votre manière d'apprécier la valeur et l'autorité de la résolution de l'Europe et du Protocole. Par la même raison nous ne pouvons pas vous imposer la nôtre. Puisque vous voulez traiter la question à un point de vue purement pratique, nous y consentons. Concentrons-nous dans ce qui nous unit et ne parlons pas de ce qui nous divise. Ce qui nous unit est le point de départ; ce qui nous divise est le motif pour lequel nous l'admettons. Quel est le point de départ? D'après votre première déclaration c'est la base indiquée au Protocole. Vous venez de rendre cette idée encore plus claire en nous proposant aujourd'hui d'aborder franchement le côté pratique de la question. Quel est le côté pratique? Evidemment c'est la ligne à tracer. Or, pour tracer une ligne, il faut deux points; ces deux points nous vous les offrons: ce sont les deux vallées. Vous ne pouvez pas effacer ces deux vallées de la carte de l'Epire et de la Thessalie par la raison qu'elles ont été indiquées au Protocole. C'est tout ce qu'il y a de plus pratique que nous vous proposons d'après votre désir. Veuillez donc vous expliquer: admettez-vous, rejetez-vous, ou modifiez-vous cette ligne?"

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha tient à constater de nouveau que ni l'un ni l'autre des deux Gouvernements n'est lié par aucun engagement. "Cependant," ajoute-il, "la question de savoir si les indications du Protocole No. 13 sont obligatoires ou non doit être tout d'abord résolue puisqu'elle a été malheureusement soulevée."

Son Excellence M. Bratiás répond, qu'après la déclaration faite par son Altesse, il ne s'agit plus de cela. "Supposons," dit-il, "que nous sommes du même avis. Vous nous dites que vous acceptez comme premières bases celles du Protocole par déférence au vœu des Puissances. Nous vous disons que nous les acceptons parce que nous nous croyons obligés de les accepter. Entrons dans la discussion du point pratique comme vous le désirez."

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha regrette de voir que leurs Excellences MM. les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques persistent dans le même système d'interprétation et qu'ils se considèrent toujours comme liés, alors qu'en réalité ils ne le sont nullement. Ceci a été suffisamment et clairement établi par la réponse des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans. Si ce point est admis, son Altesse pense, elle ne saurait trop le répéter, qu'il y aurait lieu de mettre de côté les théories pour aborder le côté pratique des négociations.

M. Colocotronis s'estime heureux de constater qu'au fond les opinions des deux parties s'accordent, et il ajoute qu'il faudrait entrer immédiatement dans le vif de la discussion.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha est heureux de constater qu'il résulte implicitement des paroles de M. Colocotronis que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes retirent leurs deux Déclarations.

M. Colocotronis déclare ne pas accepter cette interprétation donnée à ses paroles, et fait remarquer que ce ne sont point les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes qui ont modifié leur première proposition, mais bien les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans. Il ajoute à l'appui que dans les observations faites par son Altesse Safvet Pacha il y a deux parties: dans l'une son Altesse se réfère à sa première réponse; dans l'autre, elle propose d'aborder directement le côté pratique de la question.

Son Excellence M. Bratiás déclare que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes n'ont rien retiré, et ne retirent rien de tout ce qui a été dit et écrit précédemment. Il fait observer que la proposition des Plénipotentiaires Hellènes est au fond, et au point de vue pratique, la même que celle des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, et qu'il ne s'agit que d'en déduire les conséquences. "Vous désirez," dit-il, "qu'on discute la ligne. A la bonne heure, discutons-la. La Sublime Porte est-elle disposée, oui ou non, à accepter comme point de départ des négociations les deux vallées que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous proposer. C'est là, du reste," ajoute-t-il, "l'avis de l'Europe. Agir autrement c'est aller à l'encontre du Traité de Berlin, qui forme un tout avec le Protocole."

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha fait remarquer que s'il s'est mépris sur la portée des paroles de M. Colocotronis, c'est qu'il était impossible de les entendre autrement, car de deux choses l'une: ou les Déclarations sont supprimées et alors la discussion utile se produit, le terrain devenant net et dégagé de toute réserve; ou les Déclarations sont maintenues, et alors il n'y a point de discussion possible, et la Sublime Porte se trouve purement et simplement sommée d'avoir à considérer comme définitive une ligne qui consacre sa dépossession, sans examen ni discussion, d'un territoire déterminé.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha fait ensuite remarquer que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ne méritent pas le reproche qu'on leur fait d'avoir soulevé eux-mêmes par les considérants de leur réponse une controverse théorique sur l'interprétation du Protocole No. 13, ce que les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques avaient, disent-ils, pris soin d'éviter, se limitant à demander l'acceptation des indications seules de ce Protocole relatives aux deux vallées du Salambria et du Kalamas. Il déclare que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ne se sont nullement préoccupés, comme on le leur attribue, d'une question théorique, mais

qu'ils ont été mis dans l'inévitable nécessité de démontrer le véritable caractère et la véritable portée des indications qu'on leur demandait d'accepter, qu'il est absolument inadmissible que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans aient séparé les termes de ces indications de la pensée qui les avait dictées aux Puissances, qu'en un mot les explications fournies dans la première partie de leur réponse avait un caractère essentiellement pratique puisqu'elle n'avait d'autre but que d'établir nettement que la Sublime Porte acceptait comme bases des négociations les indications du Protocole telles qu'elles avaient été formulées et expliquées dans le Protocole lui-même. Abordant ensuite cet autre point de l'argumentation du préopinant, Sawas Pacha ajoute: "Son Excellence M. Braïlas croit que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans doivent opter aujourd'hui pour l'une des trois conclusions suivantes: accepter, refuser, ou modifier les indications du Protocole. C'est une erreur, et cette erreur provient sans doute de ce que l'on confond ce qui doit être fait aujourd'hui avec ce qui devra être fait après discussion; car, pour prendre l'un des trois partis que son Excellence M. Braïlas propose, il faut nécessairement discuter, c'est-à-dire, s'éclairer par un examen contradictoire et préalable. C'est alors seulement que suffisamment édifié par cette discussion, le Gouvernement Impérial pourra accepter, refuser, ou modifier. Or, M. Braïlas oublie que les deux Déclarations Helléniques suppriment la possibilité même d'une discussion qui serait tout-à-fait stérile et sans objet, dès l'instant où la Grèce persiste à déclarer qu'elle restera sourde à toute démonstration parce qu'elle se considère comme irrévocablement liée par les indications suggérées par les Puissances à Berlin." En terminant, son Excellence Sawas Pacha affirme de nouveau que nul n'est plus empressé que lui à aborder le fond même des négociations sous la seule condition qu'il s'agisse d'une discussion utile, et non point d'une discussion condamnée d'avance à rester stérile et peut-être destinée à rendre plus difficile l'entente désirée.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha adjure les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques d'abandonner un système qui est une véritable impasse, pour arriver à entrer dans une discussion utile, ainsi qu'il en manifestait le désir au début de la séance.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas constate une nouvelle fois avec plaisir les dispositions conciliantes de son Altesse, et s'estime heureux de ce résultat. Il ajoute que la proposition du Gouvernement Hellénique ne visait qu'à une entente entre les deux parties, et que c'est dans ce but que dès le commencement il a posé la question pratique par excellence. "Il n'y a qu'un seul moyen," dit-il, "d'entrer entrer en discussion, c'est de s'expliquer nettement si on accepte, oui ou non, les deux vallées."

M. Colocotronis explique comment il a compris la proposition de son Altesse Safvet Pacha d'entrer immédiatement en discussion. Il dit que son Altesse déclare être disposée à accepter la discussion. Or, une discussion ne pourrait avoir lieu sans un point de départ et ce point de départ ne pourrait être autre que les indications du Protocole No. 13. En dehors du Protocole aucune discussion n'est possible.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha fait remarquer que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans maintiennent leur réponse, c'est-à-dire, qu'en acceptant les indications du Protocole No. 13 comme bases des négociations, ils entendent toujours les discuter librement et, au besoin, les modifier.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha dit qu'il faudrait abandonner toute discussion oiseuse et adopter la manière de voir des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, seule compatible avec une discussion libre et utile.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas s'associant à l'opinion de son Excellence Sawas Pacha, dit qu'il faut abandonner les discussions théoriques et entrer en matière en examinant la proposition qu'il a eu l'honneur de formuler.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha répète que la Sublime Porte accepte comme bases les indications du Protocole No. 13 à condition d'être libre de les discuter et de les modifier. "C'est nous," ajoute-t-il, "qui restons attachés à la lettre du Protocole. Il ne faut pas nous demander de nous en départir. Ce serait nous demander l'impossible."

Son Excellence M. Braïlas constate que la discussion tourne toujours dans un cercle vicieux, ce qui ne pourrait pas amener une entente. "Il faut trouver," dit-il, "un terrain pratique et s'y tenir, et le seul point pratique est la ligne elle-même." Il revient sur sa première proposition, en priant de nouveau ses collègues Ottomans de déclarer nettement s'ils acceptent comme bases les deux points qu'il a proposés.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha répond que si le cercle est vicieux, et il l'est effectivement, ce n'est pas de la faute des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans. C'est à leurs honorables collègues de Grèce, qui l'ont fait tel, de le briser, et c'est dans ce sens, dit Sawas Pacha, qu'à plusieurs reprises il a insisté auprès de MM. les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha déclare de nouveau que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans acceptent comme bases les indications du Protocole à condition d'être libres de les discuter librement. "Telle a été," ajoute-t-il, "l'intention du Congrès, qui n'a entendu donner à

ces indications aucun caractère comminatoire." Son Altesse insiste pour que MM. les Plénipotentiaires Helléns se rangent à la manière de voir du Gouvernement Ottoman, qui seul peut ouvrir la voie à une discussion utile et pratique.

Son Excellence M. Coundouriotis constate qu'aucune entente ne pourrait se faire et demande à ses collègues Ottomans s'ils doivent considérer comme négative la réponse de la Sublime Porte à la Déclaration dont il a eu l'honneur de donner lecture à l'ouverture de la séance d'aujourd'hui.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas s'associe à l'opinion de son Excellence M. Coundouriotis, et pose de son côté la même question.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha déclare qu'en maintenant toutes les explications données par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, il se réserve de déposer une réponse écrite à la prochaine réunion.

La séance est levée à 3 heures et demie, et renvoyée à Mercredi, $\frac{22 \text{ Août}}{10 \text{ Septembre}}$.

No. 400.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 840.) *Therapia, September* 23, 1879.

My Lord,

SIR P. BRAÏLAS ARMENI, Hellenic Commissioner for the rectification of the Greek frontier, came to see me on the 21st instant. He gave me a copy of the Declaration proposed by the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries at the last sitting of the Commission, which runs as follows:—

"Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans constatent avec plaisir que leurs collègues de Grèce sont disposés à s'approcher des idées émises par eux et à entrer en matière en considérant les indications du Protocole No. 13 comme susceptible de discussion et de modification."

The Greek Plenipotentiaries having transmitted this Declaration to their Government for instructions, received in reply a form of Declaration which is to be proposed at the next meeting in substitution for that proposed by the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries.

The following is the text:—

"Le but des négotiations actuelles étant de faciliter aux deux Etats une entente désirée par l'Europe à Berlin, sur une rectification de frontières destinée à établir entre la Turquie et la Grèce des rapports de réciproque et stable sécurité, les deux parties sont d'accord pour accepter comme point de départ et comme base de discussion les indications du Protocole No. 13."

Sir P. Braïlas said that he thought the Ottoman Government could not but accept this form, but that he hoped it might receive the support of other Governments.

I said I could understand that the first part of the Declaration proposed by the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries was of a nature to prevent its acceptance by Greece, but that the latter part seemed to me to be unobjectionable, and I therefore thought that the difficulty might be arranged, if the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries objected to the new Greek form, by a union of the beginning of the Greek Declaration and the conclusion of the Ottoman Declaration, reading as follows: "Les deux parties sont d'accord pour accepter les indications du Protocole No. 13 comme susceptible de discussion et modification," which last word, I observed, might be as favourable to Greece as to Turkey, as it merely signified change, and admitted extension as well as diminution.

Both Sir P. Braïlas and M. Condouriotis are at present using language to intimate that they cannot modify their proposed Declaration, but it is to be supposed that, unless it receives strong support from without, its rejection will not involve a termination of the negotiations.

The day of the next sitting is not yet fixed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 401.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 644.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches upon matters of interest; in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Bourgas, Varna, and Scio.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 401.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, September 17, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Excellency a statement presented to me by the villagers of Tchelibi-Keui, a Mussulman village in the Canton of Missevria; it sets forth a list of outrages lately suffered by the unfortunate village at the hands of their Bulgarian neighbours; amongst their grievances will be found cases of wholesale plundering, of beating, of cattle stealing, of cutting and wounding, of murder, and of the carrying off of four persons, whose ultimate fate is not known, but may be guessed at. This document is guaranteed by the seals of the village Elders.

I have also been informed by Turks from the village of Kalamatch, in the Canton of Missevria, that on the 16th August thirty or forty Bulgarians from the villages of Erketch and Soudjoulon, accompanied by a number of the Achiah militia, plundered all the houses in the village, beating men and women with the butt-ends of their rifles. The robbers were met by an officer of militia, who compelled them to restore about one-third of the booty.

On August 30 oxen were stolen.

On September 1 armed Bulgarians from Erketch fired shots into the village, and carried off two oxen.

On September 3 the corpse of Hamza Oglou Mehmet, murdered by blows from an axe, was found between the villages of Ahlli and Battajik; the Achialo doctor and a member of the local administration were sent to examine the affair; the Turks gave evidence tending to incriminate three Bulgars of Ahlli, named respectively Yalandji Oglou Cubri, Panayot Oglou Wuran, and Bayo Oglou Rastezo; but not one of the three was arrested or even examined.

Every day some of these poor Turkish mountaineers, who are now in worse case than ever were Bulgars under Turkish rule, come to me with harrowing tales of violence and robbery. I can give them little hope, for since the commencement of the Russian occupation until now I do not know a single instance in which a Bulgarian, accused on the strongest evidence of robbery, murder, or outrages upon women, has been punished with more than a few days' imprisonment.

Even at the risk of being importunate, I beg your Excellency to ask that the promised Commissioner for the Aidos Balkan should be sent without loss of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 401.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, September 15, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, after an interval of comparative quiet, a recrudescence of the outrages against the Mussulman population of the Missevra Aidos district has unfortunately lately taken place, the following being a summary of occurrences deposed to by a Turk of the village of Fyndykli, and which have all happened within ten days:—

Caza of Missevra.

Arnaoutlar.—Twenty-eight cattle stolen.

Dana Gueuz.—The Turks having loaded their carts with tithe grain to bring to Missevra, Bulgars of the villages of Ergetch and Soudjoulon drive away their draught oxen; the Turks resist and kill one of the robbers, who then quit. Shortly afterwards the Bulgarians of Ergetch, Soudjoulon, and Altchak Dere send notice that they mean to avenge the death of their brother bandit, by reducing the Turkish villages of Tchelibi-keui, Dana Gueuz, Deniz-keui, and Arnaoutlar to ashes. They do come, fully armed, to the number of seventy or eighty, and cruelly maltreat and rob the inhabitants, though they do not carry out their threat in its entirety.

Deniz-keui.—Youssouf Chaoush, formerly of Dana Gueuz, while out wood cutting, together with a young boy, set upon by Bulgars, who thrust a sword or bayonet into his neck, and twisted it round and round in the wound, and then leaving the man on the ground for dead; the boy is also severely beaten. Youssouf Chaoush, who lies in a very precarious state, is said to have recognized Coulo Tchorbadji, of Altchak Dere, as one of his assailants. When the relatives of the wounded man wanted to take him to a doctor they were prevented from doing so by an officer of the Misevra gendarmes, who remarked that it was not necessary. "Gueberain—let him die like a dog."

Turk Dernish-keui.—Mouktar's brother Hussein, while seeking a buffalo, attacked by eight Bulgars, and so maltreated that his life is despaired of.

Caza of Aidos.

Ashaghi Tchiflik.—Mehemed Pehlivan's brother Hussein, another man, and a young boy of ten years, while going to Pasko Tchorbadji's mill with grain belonging to the latter, are attacked by Bulgars, who torture and kill the men and beat and wound the child.

From this report and others preceding, it is evident that the Bulgarian villages of Ergetch, Soudjoulon, and Altchak Dere, but especially the two first, are a nest of thieves and murderers, upon whom a signal punishment ought to be inflicted, without which, and the general disarmament of the Bulgarian villagers, the troubles in these regions will not cease.

It is to be remarked that these and other Christian villages were protected from Circassians and other evil doers, both before and during the war, by Hassan Aga of Aivadjik, a man of paramount influence in those parts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 401.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Consul-General Palgrave.

Sir, *Varna, September 16, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday a Turkish inhabitant of the village of Dokouj-Agadj, in the Caza of Bazardjik, named Mehmed Aga, accompanied by two respectable Mussulman inhabitants of Varna, came to this office and attested to the following facts, all of which have taken place recently, and within the jurisdiction of the Bazardjik authorities:—

Ekishdje, five hours from Bazardjik, brigands surrounded the mosque, took thereout three men, Zakerić, Hafyz Oglou, and Tchakir Ibrahim Moukhtar, and making them conduct them to their houses, rob them of all their money, besides taking away valuables from other houses; notice is given by villagers the same night to the village of Deli Osmanler, the next police-station, but no attention is paid to the summons. Several of the inhabitants were, two days afterwards, arrested by police as accomplices of brigands because they had not arrested the robbers.

At Sari Mahmoud twelve horses, money, and valuables were carried off by brigands.

Three days ago several carts were stopped on the road between the village of Ballidge and a guard-house, robbed, and one of the drivers shot dead.

Near the wood of Eunes-keui about ninety carts, whose owners had sold their wheat in Varna, were stopped, and the men all robbed of their money. The same thing also happened to another large caravan between Denekler and Tchamourli.

At the town of Bazardjik the Mussulmans coming out of their mosque were beaten and insulted by Bulgarian zaptiehs and militia, who demanded why they were out so late without lanterns, and why they did not stand and salute them.

Although all the brigands are dressed as Turks, there are amongst them some Bulgarians so disguised, and it is a well-known fact that the authorities do not seriously attempt to suppress the brigandage; they do, however, zealously fill the prisons with

Mussulman villagers, who, after being robbed by the brigands, are accused as their accomplices, because they, although without any defensive arms, did not arrest the robbers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 401.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Consul-General Palgrave.

Varna, September 19, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state that the following details were communicated to me just too late for including in my despatch of the 16th instant:

As will be seen, the treatment practised by the Christian brigands against their victims equal in barbarity almost any similar deeds done by their predecessors, the Circassians.

To the Turkish village of Halashli, district of Varna, about eighteen miles from the town, there came one evening, about twelve days ago, a band of Bulgarian brigands and surrounded the mosque in which the male population were then at their prayers, and keeping guard at the doors to prevent the men rushing out, they sent five of their number to collect booty in the village. Upon the head of Hadji Mollah Ahmed they put a red hot basin in order to extract money, and his wife they prodded with their bayonets in eight places for the same object.

From Hadji Maluch's mother, aged 70, they took about 14,000 piastres after torturing her and outraging and murdering her granddaughter, a girl of about 18. From the mother of Hadji Ahmed they obtained 3,000 piastres without having need of employing torture, and from the wife of the same £ T. 33, 200 silver medjidies, and 17 roubles, say in all about 71*l.*

The inhabitants inform the Varna authorities and bring the wounded here, but the degree of attention bestowed upon their complaint may be judged by the fact that three days later the Turkish village of Boghaz-Kissen, five hours distant, was attacked in the same way, though, through one of the villagers being rendered desperate and shooting one of his assailants with a revolver and wounding him, they decamped, declaring that he, the Turk, would hear from them again; and that about a week after the first occurrence the same persons came again to the village of Halashli and tortured, with red-hot pincers, &c., Salim Aga and his wife, from whom, however, they failed to extract anything, probably from the simple reason adduced by their neighbours, that they had nothing to give, being very poor.

Shamd Ali Hassan and wife, of the same place, were also tortured, the man having his foot calcined more or less in the fire, by which mode of persuasion he was induced to to give up whatever he had, which was not much.

The Turks allege (with what truth or justice is best known to themselves) that they are almost as much afraid of the local administrative authorities as of the brigands.

On my applying to the present Governor about the affair of Halashli he told me—firstly, that he had not information, then that his information was insufficient, and thirdly, that he had details, but that, although they (the authorities) had taken measures, they had not succeeded in getting hold of the evil doers, notwithstanding the existence of a state of siege, as he explained that the military did not put themselves at the disposition of the Civil Authorities, nor act in unison with them.

In correction of my despatch of the 15th instant to Her Majesty's Embassy, I have to state that the name of one of the men represented as killed belonging to the village of Ashagle Tchiftlik was not as then written, Mehmed Pehlivan's brother Hussein, but Ibrahim Pehlivan's son Hussein, and that the other man (unnamed) was his brother, Memish Hassan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 402.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 217.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 16, 1879.

OWING to the delay in M. Boerescо's return to Bucharest, the debates on the subject of the mode in which Article 7 of the Constitution can be amended could only recommence to-day.

Besides the different proposals on the subject which were being discussed previous to the adjournment on the 23rd July last, there is the Resolution of M. Blaremberg also to be disposed of. This last goes so far as to declare any alteration of the present Constitution as inexpedient.

The Government dissents from all these as unacceptable, but it is precluded from introducing its own measure until the Chamber has pronounced previously on the projects and motions referring to this subject which stand over since July last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 403.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 220.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 19, 1879.

THE Government here are desirous to embody the Resolutions they have come to on the question now under discussion in a Bill, which they do not want, however, to produce until all the other proposals now before the Chambers have been previously formally rejected.

The Opposition have made successive attempts to obtain the proclamation of the Government measure before the discussion of their own proposals is closed, but have failed; a motion for an adjournment of the debate till the Chamber is in possession of the Ministerial Bill was rejected yesterday by 75 against 53; majority for the Government, 22.

Discussion on the proposals of the Opposition will, therefore, be resumed on Monday next, the 22nd instant, and only when these have been rejected the Government will bring forward their own Bill.

According to what I can learn of the nature of the Ministerial measure, it will be similar to the one laid before your Lordship and M. Waddington by M. Boerescо, but with certain modifications, amongst which the most important one will consist in a classification according to categories of the names of the persons to be admitted at once to the enjoyment of Roumanian citizenship.

The number of Deputies present on Thursday last, in a very full House, was 128.

The opposition of 43 members in such a House would be sufficient to throw out any Ministerial proposal for amending the Constitution, as it would leave only 85 supporters to the Government, whilst 86 are necessary to give two-thirds of the votes.

The Government Bill is not likely to come up to the wishes of the Powers, but the present Administration has been evidently guided in drafting it by a desire to secure, as far as possible, its adoption, and it is very much to be feared that no other or more extensive measure of emancipation could be passed in the actual Assembly, and that, even such as it is, the success of the present one continues doubtful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 404.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 221.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Alexander Stourdza has been appointed Roumanian Agent and Consul-General at Sophia, and has proceeded to

take charge of his new post. M. Stourdza held formerly a similar appointment at Belgrade.

It does not appear as yet what kind of Agent the Prince of Bulgaria intends to appoint at Bucharest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 405.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 223.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 23, 1879.

WHEN the Powers agreed at the Congress at Berlin to stipulate in favour of equality of treatment for Jews in Roumania, their object was evidently that foreign Jews in this Principality should be assimilated to foreign Christians, and that no distinction should be made in future on account of religion.

There are at present two proposals before the Chamber of Deputies, the first being a resolution refusing to modify the Constitution, and the second altering it in such a way as to admit Jews in Roumania to citizenship and the enjoyment of political rights, but only by conferring individual naturalization by a law in each case.

The discussion on the above proposals, which are supported by the Opposition, will probably close to-night, and if they are rejected between this and to-morrow the Government Bill will most likely be introduced at once.

From what I have learnt of its provisions I may state what follows.

The condition of foreign Jews will be assimilated to that of foreign Christians, and for that purpose certain restrictions as to the acquisition of some kind of rural property will apply in future to Christians and non-Christians alike.

The Dobrudja will be specially exempted from the operations of these restrictions.

Admission to naturalization will in future be allowed to persons of all creeds alike, under conditions which are to be embodied in a separate law at some future time.

At the present moment a number of indigenous Jews, classified in accordance with certain categories, and whose names will appear on a nominal list, will receive Roumanian citizenship.

But the right of claiming this privilege, on attaining twenty-one years, will cease for foreigners in future; they may, however, apply for naturalization in the usual form, and, if they are natives of the country, no condition of residence, called "stage" in French, will be required from them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 406.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 224.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 24, 1879.

THE two important Resolutions on the discussion of which so much time has been wasted in the Chamber of Deputies have been disposed of last night, and both rejected.

The Government were naturally very desirous to have them definitely out of the way before producing their own proposals, and for that purpose they opposed every motion for adjournment brought forward by their adversaries.

The first of these was a Resolution, brought forward by M. Blaremberg, to the effect that the restrictions as to religion existing in Article 7 of the Constitution were to be maintained; only 28 members voted in favour of it, and 102 against; it was therefore rejected by a majority of 74, in a very full house (130 members present).

By the vote the Chamber affirmed indirectly, but in a most positive manner, by 102 against 28, that some amendment of the Constitution is indispensable.

After this had been done, it was necessary to dispose of the law proposed on the

subject by four of the seven members of the Committee who reported on it in June last.

Their proposal consisted in removing the objectionable restriction from Article 7 of the Constitution, and treating all indigenous Jews as aliens, allowing them to apply to the Chambers individually for naturalization, and dispensing a few of them with the necessity of residing in the country ten years longer, pending such application, before being naturalized.

This time only 127 members voted, and 86 votes were necessary to give the law the support of two-thirds, required by the Constitution.

Only 53 voted in favour of such a Resolution, and 75 against it; the proposed law has been therefore rejected; and the one drawn up by the Government will be brought forward by the Ministers this morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 407.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 225.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 25, 1879.

IT may be as well that I should place before your Lordship the chances of the Government proposal before the Chamber of Deputies as they appear after the votes of the 23rd instant.

I believe that the Chamber consists of 144 Deputies; of these 130 were present.

Of these again twenty-eight showed themselves decidedly hostile to every kind of admission of Jews to rights of citizenship, and seventy-five supported the Government in their resistance to a law which they considered inadequate.

This leaves twenty-seven members besides those absent as *prima facie* badly disposed towards the Ministerial proposal, but it may be reasonably expected that a portion of them may rally round in the absence of any practical solution, as they have solemnly affirmed by their votes the necessity there exists for altering this Article of the Constitution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 408.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 226.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 25, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a French translation of the law laid yesterday before the Chamber of Deputies with a view to amend the Constitution so as to remove religious disabilities.

In a despatch addressed to your Lordship two days ago (forwarded by messenger Hare), I believe I have stated the principal enactments of this important Ministerial measure.

The nominal list which accompanies this law, and of which I have not as yet obtained a copy, includes the names of upwards of 1,000 Jews, with their qualifications to entitle them to Roumanian citizenship, and these are, I understand, arranged according to six classes or categories.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 408.

Projected Law for the Revision of Article 7 of the Roumanian Constitution.

(Traduction.)

Article Unique.—L'ARTICLE 7 de la Constitution qui est révisé sera remplacé par le suivant :—

Art. 7. La différence de croyances religieuses et de confessions ne constitue pas, en Roumanie, un empêchement pour l'acquisition et l'exercice des droits civils et politiques.

Sec. 1. Les étrangers de toute religion pourront obtenir la naturalisation par des lois spéciales et individuelles.

Ce même droit est reconnu à ceux qui, sans être citoyens, se trouvent en Roumanie comme sujets Roumains.

Sec. 2. Ceux qui ne seront pas citoyens Roumains, ne pourront, à aucun titre, acquérir des propriétés rurales, en dehors de vignobles, terrains, et maisons dans les villes; seront toutefois respectés les droits établis en faveur de ces personnes par les lois antérieures ou par les Traités existant entre la Roumanie et d'autres Etats.

Sec. 3. Tous les habitants qui, au moment de l'annexion, se sont trouvés comme citoyens Ottomans dans la province Roumaine trans-Danubienne, la Dobroudja, qui est déclarée partie intégrante de la Roumanie, ont également les droits et les devoirs de Roumains, conformément au régime spécial que les Chambres Législatives prescriront pour cette province.

La restriction relative à l'acquisition des propriétés rurales ne s'applique pas à la Dobroudja.

Sec. . Ceux qui, nés et élevés en Roumanie jusqu'à leur majorité, n'auront jamais joui d'une protection étrangère, seront de droit dispensés du stage, lorsque les Chambres auront admis leur demande à la naturalisation.

Sec. . Sont déclarés citoyens, pour cette seule unique fois, les sujets Roumains de n'importe quelle religion qui se sont assimilés à la nation, et dont les noms et qualités sont votés par les Chambres en même temps que cette loi.

Ceux d'entre eux qui, dans l'intervalle d'un an depuis leur admission à la citoyenneté n'auront pas réclamé le diplôme d'indigénat, perdront les droits qui leur sont conférés.

No. 409.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 256.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 19, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a communication I have this day received from the Governor-General, notifying that the exportation of corn from the province has been prohibited since the $\frac{4}{16}$th instant.

This measure has evidently been adopted in anticipation of distress during the coming winter among the Turkish refugees.

In view of the same contingency the Director of Finance has resolved to keep in store the breadstuffs collected under the tithes tax.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 409.

Aleko Pasha to Mr. Michell.

M. le Consul-Général, *Philippopoli, le* $\frac{30}{18}$ *Septembre*, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance qu'en vertu d'une décision du $\frac{3}{15}$ courant, l'exportation des céréales hors de la Roumélie Orientale est prohibée à partir du $\frac{4}{16}$ Septembre, 1879.

Une franchise d'exportation pour quinze jours encore est accordée pour les transactions y relatives conclues par contrats avant la susdite date, mais à la condition que ces contrats seront enregistrés par les autorités judiciaires de la province.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Gouverneur-Général,

(Signé) A. BOGORIDI.

No. 410.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 257.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 19, 1879.

HAVING received several reports from Mr. Consul Brophy, both direct from Bourgas and through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the state of affairs in that district, I have on each occasion communicated the substance of those reports unofficially to the Governor-General.

When I first communicated the suggestion that a Commission of Inquiry should be sent to Bourgas, his Excellency told me that he would send a mixed Commission at once.

Next day, however, the Governor-General informed me by letter that he had decided on first obtaining a report from the Prefect of Bourgas.

Later his Excellency informed me that he had not succeeded in obtaining a reply to a telegram which he had sent to the Prefect.

The despatches which I received last week from Mr. Brophy having, however, shown that matters were becoming more and more serious at Bourgas, I asked Aleko Pasha, on reading their contents, whether he intended to adopt the suggestion of Mr. Brophy, backed as it was by the Prefect himself?

His Excellency spontaneously gave me his "word of honour" that he would dispatch a Commission at once, if I would assist him in selecting the persons of whom it should be composed. He added that he would not allow his Council to have anything to say in the matter, and if I would only give him the names of a Bulgarian, a Greek, and a Turk, he would issue his orders at once.

I told the Governor-General that I could not undertake the responsibility of nominating the members of the Commission. It was for him, not for me, to select persons in whom confidence could be placed. But as he continued to urge that he was at a loss to find such persons, even among the Bulgarians, I suggested Dr. Tchoumokoff, the Provincial Medical Inspector, a man of moderate views and recognized integrity. The Governor-General said he was the very man for such an inquiry, and would certainly appoint him. At the same time, he pressed me to find equally suitable representatives of the Greek and Turkish elements of the population, and, yielding at last to his entreaties, I promised that I would make inquiries and let him know the result.

Returning to the konak in a couple of days, with the names of persons who had been recommended to me as trustworthy and available, I found that the Governor-General had again abandoned the idea of sending a Commission to Bourgas, and that he had requested Dr. Vulcovitch, the Director of Works, to inquire into the state of affairs in that district during a visit which the latter contemplated on private business. His Excellency also mentioned that he would ultimately send to Bourgas a M. Consoloff, an active non-official Bulgarian of Tatar-Bazardjik.

On learning this I confined myself to telling Aleko Pasha that as he was responsible for the tranquillity of the province, I should not urge upon him the fulfilment of the promise which he had voluntarily made to me. I had communicated to him the reports which had been sent to me by Her Majesty's Ambassador, and had warned him of the danger of tolerating the present state of affairs in the department of Bourgas. It was for him to take such action as he might deem necessary.

I have the honour to inclose an extract from the "Maritza," relating to the recent encounter between armed Mussulmans and a detachment of Bulgarian militia near Aïdos.

While the Bulgarian organ states that only 5 militiamen were slightly wounded on that occasion, Mr. Consul Brophy reports that 1 zaptieh and 15 soldiers were killed, and 1 zaptieh and 5 militiamen wounded, the detachment having been forced to retreat in haste after a fight which lasted two hours and a-half.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 410.

Extract from the "Maritza" of September 19, 1879.

LA récente affaire d'Aïdos, dont les journaux Bulgarophobes avaient voulu faire une insurrection, se réduit à une petite incursion de brigands Musulmans sur notre territoire.

Traqués par la milice de la Principauté de Bulgarie, ces bandits avaient franchi la frontière Rouméliote, commis quelques méfaits, et échangé des coups de feu avec un petit détachement de nos miliciens.

Des renforts étant arrivés à ces derniers, les malfaiteurs ont pris la fuite et repassé la frontière. Cinq ou six de nos soldats ont été assez peu gravement blessés dans la rencontre.

No. 411.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 258.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 20, 1879.

THE inclosed article in the "Maritza" of this day, while thanking the members of the European Commission personally for their "eminent qualities and exquisite courtesy," declares that their efforts to satisfy everybody have remained unsuccessful.

It refers to the sacrifices made by Russia for the deliverance of all Bulgarians from the Turkish yoke, and reproaches the Commission for not having taken into sufficient account the "preponderating part (*rôle*) reserved" to the Bulgarians "by right, even in Eastern Roumelia."

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 412.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 260. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter which has been addressed to me, dated the 18th instant, from Adrianople, by a gentleman who took a prominent part in the relief of Mussulman refugees at Constantinople in 1877 and 1878, and who has just completed a tour through the districts of Tchirpan, Eski-Zaghra, and Yeni-Zaghra, in Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 412.

Mr. Hanson to Mr. Michell.

(Extract.)

THE Christians at Tchirpan complain that, because the Turks have no cattle, they will not attempt to do anything, and refuse day labour of the Christians.

The Turks complain that they cannot get their houses and shops restored to them until the expiration of the terms, nearly one year, for which they have been let to Christians.

Almost all the Christian villages in the Tchirpan district having been entirely destroyed, the Christians have occupied the twelve undestroyed Turkish villages, and the Turks lately returned cannot get possession of their houses there sheerly for want of means of housing the Christians or of sending them home, as many of these were refugees from the south. The authorities profess to give the Turks a part of the house, but the Turks cannot submit to be relegated to the outhouses while the Bulgarians hold the rooms.

The Turks in Tchirpan from the villages profess to be unable to remain in their homes among the Bulgarians because of persecution, and some have returned to Tchirpan from the villages. The authorities entirely deny persecution.

It appears to me that, in the towns where the Administrative authorities are in vigorous action, there is practical security and safety and justice for the Turks. In the villages, of course, the population is more free to insult them, though their personal safety seems pretty well secured to them. The fact is, the Turks cannot tamely submit to the galling position they are called upon to endure.

At Tchirpan a respectable Turk spoke to me in high praise of the Sous-Préfêt and the Police-master for their activity and impartiality in seeing the Turks fairly treated.

The chief mosque at Tchirpan was burnt down about a month ago,* the authorities say purely by accident, as they lost in it £ T. 600 worth of tobacco, I think, or other goods. The Turks say it must have been burnt purposely, as it was on fire twice before, at a week's interval each time.

At Eski-Zaghra very few Turks have returned. I visited a lot of forty to fifty families returned about forty days ago, and located outside the town in a large range of buildings called the slaughter-houses. It appeared as if the business were still carried on in a part of it. The people were well arranged under the open sheds and also inclosed stables, in order and clean, and a gendarme in charge; but they had as yet received nothing of any sort from the authorities. They all belonged to Eski-Zaghra town. There seems to be fairly and really a great difficulty in housing the refugees, both in the town and the villages.

As to the uneasiness of the population, there certainly is an anxiety for the future, chiefly dependent upon the Turks attempting to garrison the Balkans.

I could discover no idea on the part of the Eski-Zaghlis of preparing to leave, but a firm determination to fight again to the last, and a threat to murder every Turk in the country the moment Turkish troops moved into the province. The Bulgarians say that the Turks still talk to them of reviving the former scenes and regaining their old place; but I cannot think this can be said by them to any great extent, for they seem for the moment too cowed to express such hopes openly.

The general impression I have obtained is, that the Bulgars, having now the upper hand, are determined to keep it. The upper class Turks will have considerable difficulty in making good their claims to their property, large portions of which will be contested. The authorities profess the most perfect impartiality, but, the ownership being referred to the village Chiefs, these people will declare large portions to belong to the communal lands, and the Turks will in all cases find difficulty in getting witnesses in their favour—the Christians from interest and the Turks from fear.

The reconstruction plan of Eski-Zaghra, as I had it from the two chief men there, appears on the surface very fair and plausible, but I am satisfied that, practically, it will thoroughly subdue the Turks under the Christians. The land is to be sold in lots, no man to be allowed to buy more nor less than 600 metres; all water rights are to be annulled; no householder is to have any water in his house, but the whole is to be distributed to public fountains, one to every five or six houses. With the idea of keeping the town compact and enlarging it to its old dimensions gradually, the lots are put up to auction one by one from the centre. The highest price of expropriation is 3 to 4 piastres per metre; and the highest price of purchase as yet is 5 to 6 piastres per metre. It is manifest that the Turks, being at present out of the field, will be expropriated at a small price, and lose all their best positions, besides losing all their water rights. There are about 600 proscribed Turks of Eski-Zaghra who cannot return to administer their property; so, of course, most of this property must ultimately pass cheaply into the hands of Christians.

Except with the covert idea of getting the land of Eski-Zaghra town into the hands of the Christians, it seems to me to be an utter farce pretending to rebuild the town on the plan laid down.

* * * * * *

Several of the best men expressed their reluctance to build houses in case of future complications. There seems to be abroad an idea of Roumelian "Irredenia," the extreme Nationalists declaring they will not be thoroughly satisfied until Eastern Roumelia is united to Bulgaria, taking with her Adrianople and some port on the Marmora.

At Yeni-Zaghra there are only a few Turks returned, mostly about one month

* At the beginning of Ramazan. About the same time that the principal mosque at Tatar-Bazardjik was burnt down, and the chief mosque at Yamboli was converted into a church.

ago. They are temporarily located, but have not yet got all their houses, nor any of their fields or rents. They are fairly well treated.

* * * * * * *

The Yamboli train this day brought down a large number (about ten waggon loads) of Bulgarian refugees, returning mostly to the district of Demotica (Adrianople).

* * * * * *

No. 413.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 261.)

Philippopoli, September 20, 1879.

My Lord,

A CONTROVERSY having arisen as to the number of fires that have actually taken place at Tatar-Bazardjik, I have procured from the Turkish Notables of that town a list of all the houses and mosques destroyed by fire, demolished, or damaged since the Russian occupation, with the names of the proprietors and those of the wards in which their property has suffered.

From the inclosed abstract of that list the figures appear to be as follows:—

	During the Russian Occupation.	During the present Administration.
Destroyed by fire	61	114
Demolished	30	173
Damaged	38	469
	132	756
Total, 938		

As the details which have thus been supplied to me admit of their correctness being proved or disproved, I cannot imagine, after making every allowance for the ways of the East, that the Turks of Tatar-Bazardjik have desired to impose on my credulity.

On the other hand, four Turks whom General Strecker caused to be brought before him at Tatar-Bazardjik through the Prefect of that Department, affirmed that only twenty houses had been destroyed by fire since the 1st January last.

I can only say that, on reaching Tatar-Bazardjik, I saw the still smoking ruins of four houses or shops, and that, during the night I passed in that town, the largest remaining Turkish konak and about eight houses and shops were burned down.

At the same time, according even to the Prefect, the fires had only just recommenced, to his great alarm, after an interval of one month.

A complaint has this day reached me of the destruction, last week, of a number of Turkish houses in the village of Khydyrdjyk (district of Karadja-Dagh), immediately on their being claimed by the original proprietors.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 413.

NOMBRE des Maisons Musulmanes et des Mosquées incendiées, totalement abimées, et endommagées à Tatar-Bazardjik, sous l'Administration actuelle et lors de l'occupation Russe.

Mosquées.

Incendiées	9
Totalement abimées	5
Endommagées	7
	21

Madrassés.

Totalement abimés	5
Endommagés	2
	7

Maisons.

Quartier Saïd Khodja.

Totalement abimées sous l'Administration actuelle	12
Endommagées id.	60
Incendiées lors de l'occupation Russe	7
Endommagées id.	9
	88

Quartier Kiatib Youssouf.

Incendiées sous l'Administration actuelle	7
Totalement abimées id.	32
Endommagées id.	25
Incendiées lors de l'occupation Russe	9
Complétement abimées id.	1
Endommagées id.	4
	65

Quartier Moussalla.

Incendiées sous l'Administration actuelle	4
Complétement abimées id.	6
Endommagées id.	45
Incendiées lors de l'occupation Russe	1
Complétement abimées id.	3
Endommagées id.	2
	60

Quartier Tchiksaline.

Endommagées sous l'Administration actuelle	24
Complétement abimées lors de l'occupation Russe	4
	28

Quartier Hadji Salih.

Incendiées sous l'Administration actuelle	11
Complétement abimées id.	20
Endommagées id.	35
	66

Quartier Oudza Isak.

Complétement abimées sous l'Administration actuelle	34
Endommagées id.	76
Incendiées lors de l'occupation Russe	5
Complétement abimées id.	5
Endommagées id.	15
	134

Quartier Ayassine.

Incendiées sous l'Administration actuelle	5
Complétement abimées id.	1
Endommagées id.	8
Incendiées lors de l'occupation Russe	8
Complétement abimées id.	1
Endommagées id.	7
	30

Quartier Cara Terzi.

Incendiées sous l'Administration actuelle	36
Endommagées id.	10
Complétement abimées lors de l'occupation Russe	8
Endommagées id.	4
	58

Quartier Tinarète.

Incendiées sous l'Administration actuelle	4
Complétement abimées id.	10
Endommagées id.	2
	16

Quartier Mahmoud Atik.

Incendiées sous l'Administration actuelle	13
Endommagées id.	3
Incendiées lors de l'occupation Russe	2
	18

Quartier Naïb Koumendé.

Incendiées sous l'Administration actuelle	7
Complétement abîmées id.	9
Endommagées id.	9
Incendiées lors de l'occupation Russe	5
Endommagées id.	6
	36

Quartier Divané Sefir.

Complétement abîmées sous l'Administration actuelle	8
Endommagées id.	24
Incendiées lors de l'occupation Russe	1
Endommagées id.	9
	42

Quartier Bostan.

Incendiées sous l'Administration actuelle	8
Complétement abîmées id.	3
Endommagées id.	13
Incendiées lors de l'occupation Russe	4
	28

Quartier Djami Atik.

Complétement abîmées sous l'Administration actuelle	22
Endommagées id.	70
Incendiées lors de l'occupation Russe	4
Complétement abîmées id.	3
Endommagées id.	3
	102

Quartier Orta Djami.

Incendiées sous l'Administration actuelle	2
Complétement abîmées id.	6
Endommagées id.	7
	15

Quartier Ibrahim-Pacha.

Complétement abîmées sous l'Administration actuelle	4
Endommagées id.	37
Complétement abîmées lors de l'occupation Russe	5
Endommagées id.	14
	60

Quartier Kibti Khan Ardi.

Endommagées sous l'Administration actuelle	15
Endommagées lors de l'occupation Russe	15
	30

Quartier Kabaundji.

Complétement abîmées sous l'Administration actuelle	5
Endommagées id.	7
Incendiées lors de l'occupation Russe	5
	17

Quartier Kibti Yeni.

Incendiées sous l'Administration actuelle	17
Complétement abîmées id.	14
Endommagées id.	16
	47

RÉCAPITULATION.

Incendiées sous l'Administration actuelle	111
Complétement abîmées id.	173
Endommagées id.	169
Incendiées lors de l'occupation Russe	64
Complétement abîmées id.	30
Endommagées id.	38
	998

No. 414.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 262.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, September 20, 1879.*

I BEG to inclose an account, published by the "Maritza," of an incident which has been magnified by Reuter's Agent into an attempt on the part of the Turkish population to take possession of a battery of artillery in this town.

As far as I can ascertain, the truth of the matter seems to have been that the militia sentries guarding the battery took flight at what they imagined to be the shadows of armed men among some haystacks.

The sentries fired off their guns; the whole of the "Gymnasts" of the quarter flocked to the spot, firing their rifles in the air, while the bells of the Bulgarian church rang out an alarm.

Finding no enemy to engage, the "Gymnasts" soon returned to their homes, and the alarm ceased after about an hour's duration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 414.

Extract from the "Maritza" of September 19, 1879.

IL y eu une petite bagarre, la veille du Baïra, dans le quartier Musulman, situé de l'autre côté du pont de la Maritza. Vers minuit, des réfugiés—des gens soldés évidemment—ont tiré sur une sentinelle, qui a riposté. Il y a eu un attroupement: des piquets de gendarmerie ont accouru; mais, une heure après, tout est rentré dans l'ordre, sans qu'il y ait eu ni tués, ni blessés.

Est-ce là cette fameuse levée de boucliers dont quelques agents provocateurs parlaient tout bas dans certains quartiers de la ville, levée qui devait se produire la dernière nuit du Ramazan?

La masse de nos compatriotes Musulmans est trop sensée pour se faire tuer dans la rue au profit de tels ou tels intérêts politiques—qui ne sont jamais ceux de l'Islam et de l'Empire.

No. 415.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 263. Most Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, September 20, 1879.*

GENERAL STRECKER says that, within the last day or two, he has begun to entertain hopes of being able to introduce order and discipline among the militia.

He has obtained the discharge of three Russian officers, and will endeavour to weed out several others; but he is afraid the Russians will always insist on having the gaps filled up by men of their own, and that he will have to submit to such nominations until he is strong enough to resist them.

General Dahonine, of the Russian army, who is engaged in this town in settling the accounts of the military occupation, has been of great assistance to him in bringing the militia officers to a sense of their duty, the Russian Government being apparently alarmed at the undisguised tendencies of the Russian officers serving in the militia.

General Strecker is, therefore, convinced that the Russian Government is seriously anxious to see order and tranquillity maintained in this province, and that the intrigues of Prince Tzeretelew in a contrary direction emanate from an independent political source.

The General has this day, by my advice, issued an order prohibiting militia officers from undertaking any other duty than that which is assigned to them under their appointments. This measure is intended to prevent the officers from drilling the gymnasts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 416.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 50.)
Constantinople, September 22, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despach No. 18 of the 30th August, and am now of opinion that a complete map can be attached to the final act of delimitation of the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia, without causing material delay.

At a meeting of the Commission held on the 20th instant, Colonel Philippow laid on the table tracings of the maps executed by the Russian topographers of the Rhodope district, from Adacali, on the River Arda, to the western limit of the frontier, near Mount Cadir-Tepe, where it joins that of Southern Bulgaria.

The triangualtion of this survey throughout its extent is complete, as also the topography of the southern side of the watershed which defines the frontier; on the northern, or Eastern Roumelian side of the watershed, the topography is completed excepting two small gaps, the one north of Karakolas-dagh, and the other to the west of Kruschowa-dagh; each gap is of an extent of about 20 kilom. The Russian topographers report that they were unable to complete these two portions on account of the withdrawal of their escort on the disbandment of the Redif battalion which furnished the escort: the topographers state that about ten days are necessary to complete the work.

Colonel Chakir Bey, our Turkish colleague, has applied to the Minister of War to send at once to the ground an officer whose duty will be to see that every facility is given to the Russian topographers to enable them to finish their task.

In the meantime, the Commission is making every effort to bring to a close its labours; the maps in Constantinople will be reproduced with the least possible delay, and it is my opinion, and I believe that of my colleagues, that we are now in possession of sufficient data to complete and sign the final act of delimitation without awaiting the small unfinished portions of the maps above referred to, which, however, will probably be completed and forwarded to Constantinople by about the 15th of October, or a few days prior to the termination of the work of the Commission, should they not have arrived by that date (though not absolutely required). To render the series of maps the more complete, they can be reproduced and forwarded to the respective Governments by the Turkish War Office, without necessitating the further detention of the members of the Commission at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

No. 417.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 83.)
Constantinople, September 22, 1879.

My Lord,

THE negotiations at St. Petersburgh with regard to the point west of Karaourgan having failed of result, I telegraphed to your Lordship on the 10th instant suggesting that I might endeavour to renew negotiations here. To that proposition your Lordship, by your telegram No. 17 of the 12th instant, was pleased to give a provisional assent.

Before dispatching my telegram, I had spoken (in the sense of your No. 17) to Nedjib Pasha, as reported in my No. 77 of the 1st September, and since receiving your telegram I have had an interview with Safvet Pasha. The latter, although professing to be ignorant (as doubtless he is) of the details of the frontier question, said that his Commissioners would no doubt firmly hold to the statements recorded in the Protocols.

In order to feel my way as regards the basis on which the Russian Commissioner and myself were to meet in the event of a resumption of the séances, I addressed a letter to General Zelenoy. A copy of that letter and of his answer I have the honour herewith to inclose.

Although I conceived that it was my duty to endeavour to take up the ball where it fell, and not allow the question to be shelved for one moment, I must confess that in my judgment the Karaourgan question—involving the interpretation of Treaty and Agreements between Plenipotentiaries, and, consequently, forming a matter between Cabinets rather than between Commissioners—is one which could only be settled at St. Petersburgh.

But, if my letter to General Zelenoy does no other good, it forms a comment on the apparent want of community of action between the Russian Government and its Agents here—a condition of things which is destructive of confidence and retards the conduct of business. But this is, unfortunately, an old characteristic of Russian policy.

I regret to have to inform your Lordship that the Turkish element on the Commission has been much weakened of late. Nedjib Pasha was summarily ordered off to Crete at a short notice (by order of Osman Pasha, I understand), in spite of a promise made to Sir Henry Layard by Safvet Pasha, that he (Nedjib Pasha) should be detained here for the present. There is no reason to suspect Russian influence in the sudden departure of Nedjib Pasha, but the explanation is more likely to be found in a personal desire on the part of Osman Pasha to get rid of a man who has been making himself obnoxious to Turks of the old school by being one of the prime movers in suggesting military reforms.

Chekab Bey, my Turkish colleague, has also left for the purpose stated in my No. 81 of the 15th September. The Pashas who remain are Ali Nizami, who is quite broken down in health, and Feyzy Pasha, whose great age (75) is not conducive to the exercise of much mental activity in the interpretation of a Treaty.

Nedjib Pasha will probably be succeeded by Mahmoud Pasha as President of the Boundary Commission. This officer does not speak a word of French.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 417.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to General Zelenoy.

Thérapia, le 15 Septembre, 1879.

M. le Général,

DANS notre dernière entrevue, le 7 Août, j'eus l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance le contenu d'un télégramme reçu le 6 Août du Marquis de Salisbury m'informant que M. de Giers avait reconnu le droit du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique d'être consulté dans la fixation du point à l'ouest de Karaourgan. Mais comme vous n'aviez alors reçu aucune notification à cet effet de la part du Gouvernement Russie, je vous ai prié de vouloir bien me faire parvenir les instructions de votre Gouvernement aussitôt que vous les auriez reçues, dans l'espoir de pouvoir recommencer sans délai nos travaux de délimitation.

Cinq semaines s'étant écoulées depuis lors sous silence, je vous prie par ma présente de vouloir bien m'informer si vous n'avez pas encore reçu de nouvelles instructions en conformité avec le langage tenu par M. de Giers.

En attendant, veuillez me permettre de vous rappeler brièvement, M. le Général, les circonstances qui ont eu lieu au sein de la Commission et la correspondance ayant rapport à ce sujet.

Il résulte des trois séances de la Deuxième Commission que les Commissaires Turc et Britannique ont choisi, selon le Traité de Berlin, comme point à l'ouest près de Karaourgan, le point d'intersection de la crête de Karaourgan avec la parallèle du dit village; le point en question se trouvant à une distance approximative de 300 sagènes du dit village. Le Commissaire Russe (M. le Général Stébnitzky) n'a pas donné son adhésion à ce point, et même il a maintenu un point au sud-ouest de Karaourgan. Mais après votre nomination comme le remplaçant du Général Stébnitzky, et à la suite de quelques pourparlers dans lesquels vous avez émis l'opinion que le point du Traité de Berlin devrait se trouver sur la dite parallèle, je vous ai prié par ma lettre du 18 Juillet de vouloir bien indiquer sur la carte le point que vous proposez à l'ouest de Karaourgan comme point de départ de nos travaux.

En réponse à ma dite lettre vous m'avez écrit le 19 Juillet que son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur de Russie a exprimé l'opinion que la Deuxième Commission n'a pas le droit de discuter le point à l'ouest de Karaourgan fixé par la Première Commission, et que cette opinion est obligatoire pour vous.

Par ma lettre du 20 Juillet je vous ai informé que j'avais demandé des instructions au Marquis de Salisbury à propos de votre lettre du 19 Juillet.

Un télégramme de Lord Dufferin a été reçu le 3 Août par le Marquis de Salisbury, et transmis ici le 5 Août. Selon ce télégramme, le droit du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique de participer à la détermination du point à l'ouest de Karaourgan est pleinement reconnu par M. de Giers, et il consent à ce que ce point soit placé sur la parallèle du dit village.

Le 9 Août Lord Dufferin montra la copie du télégramme en question à M. de Giers, qui exprima sa parfaite satisfaction en ce qui concerne la rédaction du dit télégramme, et même il se montra tout disposé à souscrire le document en cas de nécessité.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 417.

General Zelenoy to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

Buyukdéré, le $\frac{5}{17}$ Septembre, 1879.

Mon Colonel,

J'AI remis à son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Russie, pour être présentée au Ministère, votre lettre officielle adressée à moi, que j'ai reçue le $\frac{3}{15}$ Septembre, 1879.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ZELENOY,
Délégué Russe à la Deuxième Commission de Delimitation des Frontières Turco-Russes en Asie.

No. 418.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 81.) *Buyukdéré, September* 23, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward by messenger, with this letter, the Act which defines the Danubian frontier of Bulgaria.

It also contains the Act of Delimitation of that part of the Bulgarian frontier which lies between the point where it leaves the frontier of Eastern Roumelia and the point where it joins the frontier of Servia.

It is accompanied by a tracing of the ground adjacent to the frontier-line, that line being marked on it in red.

The tracing, like that before forwarded, was made by Commandant Lemoyne, President of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, partly from the Russian map, partly from the work of Major Ardagh's party.

The portion executed by the English officers consists of a small part of sheet No. 5, the whole of No. 6, and the part in No. 7 which is west of the watershed.

A duplicate of the first sheet of the present map is also forwarded, in order that it may be annexed as the final sheet to the map of the Bulgaro-Roumelian frontier, which it will complete, according to what was said respecting it in my despatch No. 70.

The documents now sent complete the record of the delimitation of Bulgaria so far as it was entrusted to this Commission.

The Act also contains the delimitation of that part of the frontier of Bulgaria which is concurrent with the frontier of Servia, as fixed on the ground by the Servian Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure in No. 418.

Acte fixant: (1) *La Frontière Danubienne de la Bulgarie*; (2) *la Frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Turquie* (*Macédoine*); (3) *la Frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Serbie.*

LE Congrès de Berlin a stipulé dans l'Article II du Traité conclu le $\frac{1}{13}$ Juillet, 1878, que les frontières de la nouvelle Principauté de Bulgarie seraient fixées sur les lieux par une Commission Européenne, où les Puissances Signataires seraient représentées.

Leurs Majestés l'Empereur d'Allemagne, l'Empereur d'Autriche-Hongrie, M. le Président de la République Française, leurs Majestés la Reine du Royaume-Uni de la Grande Bretagne et de l'Irlande, Impératrice des Indes, le Roi d'Italie, l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, et le Sultan, Empereur des Ottomans, ont à cet effet nommé pour leurs Commissaires, savoir :—

Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne, le Sieur Comte Karl von Wedel, Major d'Etat-Major, Attaché Militaire à l'Ambassade d'Allemagne à Vienne;

Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Autriche-Hongrie, le Sieur Charles Chrétien Henry Baron de Ripp, Colonel d'Etat-Major;

M. le Président de la République Française, le Sieur Jules Victor Lemoyne, Chef d'Escadron d'Etat-Major;

Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume-Uni de la Grande Bretagne et de l'Irlande, Impératrice des Indes, le Sieur Edward Bruce Hamley, Général-Major;

Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie, le Sieur Balthasar Alexandre Orero, Lieutenant-Colonel d'Etat-Major;

Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, le Sieur André Bogolubow, Colonel d'Etat-Major, Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie;

Sa Majesté le Sultan, Empereur des Ottomans, Son Excellence Méhemmed Tahir Pacha, Général de Brigade d'Etat-Major.

Lesquels, munis de leurs pouvoirs et instructions, et réunis en Commission,

Ont fixé dans les conditions ci-après, les parties de la frontière de la Principauté de Bulgarie qui n'ont pas déjà fait l'objet d'actes spéciaux :—

I.—*Frontière Danubienne de la Bulgarie.*

Article 1. Au Nord, entre l'ancienne frontière de Serbie et la frontière de la nouvelle Province Roumaine de la Dobroutscha, la frontière suit le thalweg du Danube, tel qu'il sera reconnu et déterminé par une première entente entre les deux Etats intéressés, et successivement dans des vérifications périodiques.

Art. 2. Le thalweg du Danube est la ligne continue des plus grands sondages, qui correspond généralement à la voie la plus propre à la navigation d'aval durant les plus basses eaux ordinaires. Dans le cas où le fleuve forme deux bras navigables, celui des deux qui dans le cours de l'axe de son thalweg particulier offrira la sonde la moins profonde ne pourra être considéré comme le bras du thalweg du fleuve.

Toutefois, pour ne porter aucune atteinte aux droits précédemment établis, toutes les îles situées à droite du thalweg qui, dans la délimitation exécutée en vertu du Traité spécial d'Andrinople, en date du $\frac{2}{14}$ Septembre, 1829, relatif aux Principautés de Moldavie et de Valachie, ont été attribuées à ces Principautés, resteront comme enclaves à la Roumanie,—toutes celles qui situées à gauche du thalweg ont été attribuées aux provinces de la rive droite du Danube feront partie de la Bulgarie.

Art. 3. Un état ci-annexé donne les noms des îles attribuées aux deux parties intéressées dans la délimitation précitée; il est conforme aux indications de la carte établie en 1830 pour l'intelligence des dites opérations, et dont l'original est déposé à la Sublime Porte.

Art. 4. Le thalweg du Danube une fois reconnu comme il est dit aux Articles 1 et 2, et avec les restrictions indiquées à l'Article 2, formera la limite de souveraineté jusqu'à la reconnaissance suivante, quels que soient les changements que le thalweg réel puisse éprouver pendant l'intervalle d'une reconnaissance à l'autre.

Art. 5. Quant aux droits de propriété, de jouissance, et d'usage, de la part des particuliers, des communes ou des Etats, sur les îles et les eaux du fleuve, ils devront faire l'objet d'une Convention spéciale entre les deux Gouvernements riverains, sans préjudice des stipulations de l'Article LV du Traité de Berlin, qui remet à la Commission Européenne du Danube, assistée de Délégués des Etats riverains, l'élaboration des règlements de navigation, de police fluviale et de surveillance, depuis les Portes de Fer jusqu'à Galatz.

Cette Convention déterminera les principes sur lesquels s'appuiera à l'avenir la propriété des alluvions et celle des îles qui pourraient se former dans le lit du fleuve.

Elle énumérera les travaux dans le lit ou sur les bords du fleuve, qui étant de nature à déterminer un déplacement ultérieur du thalweg, ne pourront être exécutés que du consentement unanime des deux Gouvernements riverains.

Art 6. La Mer Noire forme la limite est de la Bulgarie.

II.—*Frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Turquie* (*Macédoine*).

Art. 7. Du Manchou, point situé entre Sivri-Tach et Cadir-Tépé, où la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale va, conformément à l'Acte du 14 Août dernier, rejoindre la Crête principale du Rhodope marquée sur la Carte Autrichienne comme la limite de l'ancien Sandjak de Sofia, la frontière Méridionale de la Bulgarie, se dirigeant d'abord vers le sud, suit par la chaîne principale du Rhodope la ligne bien marquée du

partage des eaux entre les bassins du Mesta-Karasu (Ropolnitza et Granitchar) d'un côté et de l'Isker de l'autre, par Routchkaia-Tchal et Natbant; à hauteur de Kourdjalik, elle prend la direction de l'ouest par Tchabirna, et Demir-Kapiia (Demir-Kapou) jusqu'à Kadinitza-Gora (à peu près le Kadimezar-Balkan de la Carte Autrichienne), où elle s'infléchit vers le sud-ouest, et par Kodja-Koritza-Gora elle atteint l'Aï-Gedik (sommet de la montagne au nord de la passé du même nom).

Là elle tourne de nouveau vers l'ouest et suivant la ligne de partage des eaux entre les bassins de la Rilska-Rieka et de la Bistritza-Rieka, affluents du Struma-Karasu, elle rencontre sur le contrefort de la Vodenica-Planina les sommets de Merdjik-Tépé, Kaditza, Markovascalu, Tzarev-Vrh, Mousovra, Derezlitza, Kirelo, et Fetir. Elle laisse à la Bulgarie le Monastère de Rilo et les villages de Pastra, de Riloselo, et d'Istop, à la Turquie les villages de Bistritza et Dobrava et la ville de Djouma.

A 2,300 mètres au sud-est de Barakovo (Barakli), la frontière quitte la ligne de partage pour descendre vers la Rilska-Rieka par la crête bien accentuée du second contrefort à l'est de Barakovo, au pied duquel elle s'engage dans un torrent desséché qui la mène à la rivière à 850 mètres en amont du pont de la chaussée. Cette ligne sépare à peu près le gros des possessions de Barakovo laissé à la Turquie d'une part, et de Paraminovo (Paromin) laissé à la Bulgarie de l'autre.

La frontière descend ensuite le thalweg de la Rilska-Rieka jusqu'à son confluent avec la Struma, et tournant au nord remonte le cours de la Struma jusqu'à 600 mètres de ce confluent. Elle se dirige alors de nouveau à l'ouest dans le ravin qui sépare les villages de Tekia (Jelesnica) appartenant à la Bulgarie et de Boutchino (Bucinova), appartenant à la Turquie. Par la tête de ce ravin elle gagne deux mamelons rocheux et par ceux-ci le sommet de Tchordak-Kamik; puis elle continue par la crête de la Vlaïna, qui contourne le bassin de toutes les eaux tombant dans la Struma au sud de Boutchino; ce bassin reste dans sa totalité avec les villages de Lisin, Drenovo, Klissoura à la Turquie, le territoire de Froloch et de Tcherveritza reste au contraire à la Bulgarie.

Par la Gora-Ersekovitza et la Gora-Dirnberitza la frontière atteint ainsi la chaîne de Golema-Planina au sommet de Sinianova-Tchouka (correspondant au Gitka de la Carte Autrichienne). Sur cette chaîne, qui sépare les eaux de la Jelechnitza et celles du Sasa-Déré se déversant dans la Bregalnica, elle rencontre successivement la Gora-Planinatz, les maisons éparses de Vitreu, le Stervij-Vrh, les sommets de Jivaja-Kobila, de Stibanitza, de Koutzoulinitza, de Jdropanitza, de Baltajnitza, et de Roucne, laissant au sud à la Turquie les villages de Kosevitza, de Mlashtitza, et de Sasa.

Parvenue à Roucne, la frontière descend, toujours dans une direction générale du sud-est au nord-ouest, vers la route de Kustendil à Egri-Palanka, par la ligne de partage entre les eaux de la Lepnitza d'une part, et celles de la Kriva-Rieka affluent de l'Egri-Déré de l'autre; elle y rencontre les sommets de Saka-Bachi, de Bojderitza et de Batchevitza.

Elle coupe la grande route précitée près de la karaoula de Déré-Bagdar située sur le col 1247 de la Carte Autrichienne, se redresse davantage vers le nord, et poursuivant par la ligne de faîte, elle passe par les sommets de Mogiller, Sdranchover, Tirnova, Soutzrana, laissant à la Bulgarie les villages de Kamenitza, Guvechevo, Skakavitza, Ranitzi, Pekolnitza, Tcherven-Dol, Koprivn, Babechcno, Tzerechnevo, et tout le bassin de la Pokriva-Rieka avec les villages de Jeravino, Golesh, et Karamanitza. Les villages de Jedullo, Radolisko, Fourpatch, Medosh, Soursera, Luki situés à l'ouest de la ligne restent à la Turquie.

Arrivée sur la Babina-Poljana, la ligne de démarcation passe par les sommets de Goulemij-Vrh-Gora, et Vilo-Kolo, laissant à la Bulgarie les villages de Doganitza et Doukat, à la Turquie ceux de Proliesie et Tzerveni-Grad, et gagne ainsi à 4 kilom. au sud de Crni-Vrh la Gora-Pataritza, point de jonction des frontières Bulgaro-Turque, Turco-Serbe, et Serbo-Bulgare, aux sources de la Souga-Loubata à l'est et de l'Orlitchka à l'ouest.

Art. 8. La frontière entre le Manchou et la Gora-Pataritza est marquée sur un croquis à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{420000}$, dressé d'après les cartes Russes et d'après les levés expédiés exécutés spécialement pour la Commission par les officiers Anglais, et qui sera annexé au présent acte pour être consulté au besoin comme document explicatif.

Le croquis precité donne en outre la région située entre Tcham-Kouron et Manchou, et complète ainsi le croquis annexé à l'Acte du 14 Août, relatif à la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale.

III.—*Frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Serbie.*

Art. 9. De la Gora-Pataritza, point de jonction des frontières Bulgaro-Turque, Turco-Serbe, et Serbo-Bulgare jusqu'au Crni-Vrh, la frontière de la Bulgarie se confond exacte-

ment avec la ligne de partage des eaux, en passant par les sommets de Sessna-Kobila et de Koroudjak; elle a été tracée sur les lieux par la Commission Internationale, créée pour la délimitation de la Serbie et comprenant avec des Délégués des sept Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin le Représentant du Gouvernement Princier de Serbie. Cette ligne a été considérée par erreur par la dite Commission, comme partie de la frontière entre la Serbie et la Turquie.

Art. 10. Du Crni-Vrh jusqu'au point où elle retrouve l'ancienne limite orientale de la Principauté de Serbie, la frontière a été également tracée sur les lieux par la Commission de Délimitation de Serbie, et décrite par elle dans les termes suivants:—

"(No. 1.) Sur le sommet du Crni-Vrh, point de jonction des frontières Serbo-Turque, Serbo-Bulgare, et Bulgaro-Turque (Macédoine).

"De ce point la frontière Serbo-Bulgare longe les crêtes sur le partage exact des eaux, se dirigeant généralement vers le nord, traversant les hauteurs de Modrika (No. 2) de Bessna-Kobila (Nos. 12, 13, et 15 et reconnue par trois pico-roches formant des bornes naturelles) de Pashina-Livada (No. 39) de Prossenik (No. 57) et de Golemo-Ravnishte (No. 66). Elle passe aussi par les monticules Vlassinski-Kamen (No. 22 pierreux), Ougrinov-Kamen (No. 32 pierreux) et Metchid (No. 72 pierreux, borne naturelle). Et elle laisse à la Serbie les villages de Kriva-Veia, Kravarnik, Novo-Selo et Ravna-Reka, laissant à la Bulgarie ceux de Moussoulj et de Rjana.

"Du No. 72 la frontière, toujours sur le partage des eaux, descend sur l'ensellement (No. 74) pour monter sur les hauteurs de Vrshnik (No. 76) et Golema Tchouka (No. 83). De là elle longe la crête, laissant à gauche le Mont-Streser (qui ne se trouve pas sur le partage des eaux). Du point (No. 89) elle tourne à droite pour descendre les pentes jusqu'au monticule Vilo-Kolo (No. 100).

"On n'a pu fixer sur le terrain la Mesid-Planina du Traité.

"De Vilo-Kolo la frontière suit généralement une direction nord-est sur le partage des eaux, laissant à droite le Mont Medjol, le Mont Golemi-Vrh, et le Mont Liave-Boukve, pour traverser le Debeli-Rid (No. 112), le Belo-Kamenie (un monticule pierreux No. 133) et le Pandjin-Grob (une hauteur prominente d'où on voit pour la première fois les marais de la Vlassina Reka-Blato (No. 144). Le village de Vrla Reka est laissé à la Serbie, celui de Stamülüska-Mahala à la Bulgarie.

"Du Pandjin-Grob la frontière longe les crêtes par Mont Pleshevats et Mont Stoudentz, et ensuite suit les prairies Douga-Poliana et Tishina-Poliana, traversant une ancienne mine délaissée entre Poteaux Nos. 182 et 184, et les Monts Milin Rid (No. 191), et Bukova-Glava (No. 204). A gauche se trouve le marais de la Vlassina-Reka (Blato) et les villages de Savinats, Skela, et Vlassina.

"Afin de contourner une partie de ce dernier village qui se trouve coupé par le partage des eaux, la frontière arrivant à une autre mine délaissée (No. 214) tourne à droite et longe le premier ruisseau jusqu'au No. 224 près d'un vieux moulin Dvorishta-Vodenitza. Elle remonte ensuite près d'un autre petit ravin pour retrouver le partage des eaux au No. 231 situé près d'un bois et sur la route.

"La frontière continue à longer le partage des eaux sur le terrain onduleux et nommé pour la plupart Plateau-Saraïa, passant le monticule pierreux Mrdaritza (No. 256), jusqu'au pied de la montagne en face Mont Plana vers No. 271. Elle monte les pentes de cette montagne laissant le sommet à la Serbie et se tourne vers la droite (No. 278) pour traverser les hauteurs de Mont Gramada. On n'a pu constater la position exacte du Mont Gacina, Crna-Trava, Darkovska, et Drainica.

"Du poteau No. 278 la frontière prend une direction générale vers le nord-est, et du poteau No. 287 pointe de triangulation du levé Russe, nommé Tourutsko-Kolibishte, elle commence à descendre suivant le partage des eaux vers un bas ensellement où se trouve le village de Preslap. Pour y arriver la ligne de la frontière forme un angle aigu à Mont Grosnatovsko Plandishte (No. 297) et traverse un monticule pierreux (No. 301) et un autre du même genre couvert de bois Rajshtév-Saj (No. 308).

"Arrivée à l'ensellement de Preslap (Poteau No. 1) la frontière monte les hauteurs de Stamenov-Grob (No. 9) sur des pentes assez raides, au sommet desquelles se trouve un terrain couvert de broussailles et elle longe ces crêtes traversant le Roudinski-Rid (No. 17) le Kuradjev-Kamen (No. 26, une haute pointe roaheuse) et le Peshtchana-Thouka (No. 28, qui ressemble au No. 26).

"A droite il y a toujours la vallée de la Golema-Reka, et à gauche les vallées sont généralement profondes et fortement boisées.

"Du poteau No. 28 la ligne de la frontière tourne à droite se dirigeant généralement vers le nord pour descendre sur l'ensellement près du village de Ranilug (lequel est laissé à la Bulgarie); elle traverse la route à ce village, monte sur le grand rocher Zdravtchi-Kamen (No. 37) et ensuite elle parcourt les crêtes escarpées de Mont Pipel, et du Shterbi-

Kamen, arrivant à la hauteur de Preseca (No. 44). De là elle descend sur les basses crêtes onduleuses arrivant à Daschani Kladenatz où se trouvent trois maisonnettes, dont deux sont laissées à la Bulgarie et une à la Serbie.

"La ligne de frontière ensuite continue les mêmes crêtes strictement sur le partage des eaux qui sont pour la plupart fortement boisées, traversant le Rakitski-Rid, le Mont Dasbine, le Prosetcheni-Kamen le Mont Batcheovdeo (No. 108), le Tsrvena-Yabouka-Kamen (Nos. 123 et 124 une hauteur rocheuse avec les pentes vers le sud très-raides), le Tsrni-Vrk (No. 141) jusqu'au Mali-Tsrni-Vrh (No. 156).

"De cette hauteur on tourne à droite et l'on descend le contrefort entre les rivières Bissazi et Presetcheni pour aboutir sur l'ensellement près du village de Preseka (No. 198).

"Du No. 198 la frontière suit près d'un chemin jusqu'au No. 201, qui se trouve à la source du premier petit cours d'eau qui tombe vers la droite de l'ensellement de Preseka. Elle longe à peu près ce cours d'eau jusqu'au No. 204 où commence à monter un autre petit ravinet qui commence au No. 206. Par ce tracé une portion du village de Preseka reste à la Serbie et l'autre à la Bulgarie.

"Du No. 206 la frontière suit de nouveau le partage des eaux traversant le Mont Kilka (No. 246), Golema-Glava (une hauteur rocheuse No. 259), Mont Vrtop (No. 294) jusqu'au sommet du Mont Regnosa (une montagne très-rocheuse et très-escarpée). De Golema-Glava le terrain est excessivement raboteux et pierreux; à droite des crêtes se trouve une profonde vallée, dans laquelle est situé le village de Kossovrano; à gauche près de Regnosa il y a plusieurs cuvettes naturelles dans les rochers.

"La ligne de frontière longe les crêtes du Mont Regnosa jusqu'au No. 347. De là elle tourne à droite pour descendre sur un ensellement en prairie (No. 365 Raitchinitza), laissant à la Serbie tout le Stol. De là elle remonte sur la hauteur de Toumba (No. 369) et parcourt les crêtes onduleuses vers le village de Tserevdol. De l'ensellement (No. 365) la direction générale de la frontière est vers l'est.

"Arrivée à l'ensellement près de Tserevdol (No. 416), village qui reste à la Serbie, la ligne de frontière monte sur les hauteurs rocheuses au-dessus de Tserevdol (Nos. 92, 89). De là elle traverse les hauteurs No. 86, Dreznia (No. 81), Mrasnitza, Berendel (No. 76), et Gradiste-Kamen (No. 67), laissant à la Bulgarie le village de Vlasi et à la Serbie celui de Borovichi. De la hauteur de Gradiste-Kamen, la frontière est tirée en ligne droite à la hauteur pierreuse de Drajana-Vrh (No. 63), et de là elle se tourne à droite pour traverser le Pisan-Kamen (No. 60). Ensuite elle parcourt la crête d'un contrefort pour arriver à la Soukovska-Reka, qu'elle traverse à 660 mètres (mesurés en ligne droite) en aval de l'embouchure du ruisseau de Derguia-Gornia.

"La frontière traverse la rivière Soukovska à peu près perpendiculairement au courant et se trouve marquée par un arbre sur la rive droite (No. 45). De là elle monte la hauteur en face jusqu'au monticule Berovitza (No. 37), qui se trouve près de la route de Pirot à Trn, et la direction magnétique entre les Poteaux No. 45 et No. 37 est à peu près 87°.

"Du No. 37 la frontière arrive à la route, et la suit (s'écartant d'elle un peu entre Nos. 35 et 32) jusqu'au No. 27. La route reste à la Serbie. No. 27 est placé sur un petit ensellement à la tête d'une vallée boisée; une croix se trouve à peu près 250 mètres distant vers laquelle l'angle magnétique est 234° 30'. Cette croix reste à la Bulgarie. Du No. 27 on traverse la route et contourne le village de Planinitza, pour le laisser à la Serbie, en quittant à ce propos le partage des eaux jusqu'au No. 21. De là elle suit cette ligne naturelle traversant la hauteur prominente et pierreuse de Kostresh (No. 14) et elle descend le contrefort qui amène près de Goïndol lequel reste à la Bulgarie. Le village de Tcherendol reste a la Serbie. Du No. 6 situé près du village de Goïndol la frontière tourne un peu à gauche pour arriver à la route de Pirot à Sophia (No. 1). L'angle magnétique entre le No. 5 et le No. 1 est à peu près 86° 30'.

"No. 1 sur la route de Pirot à Sophia, où la frontière la traverse, est situé à une distance de 1,326 mètres mesurés du Han Segusa (Jeloucha) sur la route même et à 510 mètres (mesurés en ligne droite) de l'endroit où la chaussée est coupée par le ruisseau de Segusa.

"De cet endroit la frontière est tracée en ligne droite, vers un point un peu à gauche de la hauteur (No. 47) sur le Vidliç-Planina qui est la plus élevée et qui se trouve entre le village de Rjana et celui de Slavinia. La direction magnétique de cette ligne est à peu près 39°, elle laisse à la Serbie les villages de Tchiniglovtsi et d'Obrenovi, et à la Bulgarie ceux de Peterlasch et de Odorovtsi. Comme la ligne droite traverse le village de Paskas-kia-Milkovatzi, la frontière s'écarte de cette ligne entre les poteaux Nos. 14 et 15, en suivant le thalweg du petit cours d'eau, et d'une vallée sèche qui forme sa continuation.

"Du No. 47 la frontière suit une ligne droite au point pris pour le Mont Radocina

(No. 1, 1,500 mètres au nord-ouest du sommet du Mont Srbrena sur les crêtes des Kodja-Balkans et indiqué dans la nature par un petit tumulus. Ce point aussi est fixé par les relèvements magnétiques qui suivent: au sommet de Kamara 95°; au sommet de Srbrena 120° 30'; au Crni-Vrh 192°; au Youssoupoff-Kumen 242°; à Tri-Chuki 323° 30'. Cette ligne traverse le Mont Skrivena, et laisse à la Bulgarie les villages de Slavinia, de Braïk-ovtsi, de Kamenitza et de Senokos, et à la Serbie celui de Rjama et de Rossomatch. La direction magnétique de cette ligne est à peu près 70°. La frontière dévie de cette ligne près de Slavinia. Arrivée aux crêtes des rochers du Vidliç (No. 51) elle tourne vers la gauche pour traverser la Vissotcha-Reka au No. 53, elle remonte les pentes vis-à-vis con tournant la plupart des champs appartenant au village de Slavinia par une ligne distante de 300 à 350 mètres au-dessus de la route à Pirot, jusqu'à un petit monticule cultivé (No. 58).

"Arrivée au tumulus pris comme le Mont Radocina, la frontière tourne vers la gauche et suit strictement le partage des eaux sur les crêtes des Kodja et des Ciprovec-Balkans, traversant les Monts Mala-Poliana, Dobroïoutvo, Slop, Souvitchnitsa, Vrtop, Dabishin, Tri-Kladentsa, Tri-Tchouka, Vraja-Glava, Olovish, Golema-Tchouka, Martinova-Tchouka, Valouje, Midjor, Kozia-Gorvina, Medjova, Sini-Vrh, et Debeli-Ert. La direction générale de cette ligne est nord-ouest.

"De là, la frontière suivant à peu près la même direction, longe le partage des eaux à travers la passe de St. Nicolas, coupant toutes les redoutes qui se trouvent sur les hauteurs au nord et au sud de la passe, mais faisant un tout petit détour pour contourner un tombeau Serbe près de la route, lequel est laissé à la Serbie (No. 30). La frontière alors parcourt les crêtes traversant le Mont Elja et le Mont Golash pour arriver sur le partage des eaux au Poteau No. 62, Joanova-Livada, où elle rencontre la vieille frontière. Ce point No. 62 est à peu près à 10 kilomètres de Koula-Smiljevo-Chuka."

Art. 11. Du point déterminé par la Commission Internationale pour la délimitation de la Serbie, sur la Joanova-Livada à 10 kilom. environ de la Kula-Smiljova-Cuka (Poteau No. 62), la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Serbie se confond avec l'ancienne limite orientale de la Principauté de Serbie; par les Balkans et le Timok, elle va rejoindre le thalweg du Danube au confluent du Timok dans ce fleuve, près de Rakovitza.

Art. 12. Il appartiendra aux parties intéressées de prendre d'un commun accord telles mesures qu'elles croiront utiles pour établir des marques de bornage sur les diverses frontières, conformément au tracé arrêté par la Commission.

Art. 13. Il leur appartiendra également de régler directement ou après entente réciproque, pour les maintenir ou les transformer par des compensations équivalentes, les droits de pacage ou d'usage dans les bois que pourraient avoir, par écrits, par possession ou par prescription, certaines communes frontières sur des territoires attribués par le présent Acte à un Etat, une Principauté, ou province voisine.

Il sera d'ailleurs apporté dans les lois et règlements de douane à intervenir tous les tempéraments de nature à ménager les intérêts économiques des populations frontières.

Conformément aux stipulations précises du Traité de Berlin, les droits de propriété des particuliers sur des immeubles situés dans un Etat, une Principauté, ou province autre que celui ou celle de leur résidence, demeurent intacts.

Art. 14. Le présent Acte contenant quatorze Articles et établi, avec le croquis annexe indiqué à l'Article 8, en sept expéditions reconnues identiques, une pour chaque Puissance représentée dans la Commission de Délimitation, a été signé par tous les Commissaires, en vertu de leurs pouvoirs et instructions.

Il sera soumis immédiatement à l'approbation des Gouvernements de l'Allemagne, de l'Autriche-Hongrie, de la France, de la Grande Bretagne, de l'Italie, de la Russie, et de la Turquie, par leurs Commissaires respectifs, et porté ensuite à la connaissance des parties intéressées pour recevoir son exécution.

Fait à Constantinople, le vingt Septembre, mil huit cent soixante dix-neuf.

(L.S.) E. B. HAMLEY.
(L.S.) G. W. WEDEL.
(L.S.) RIPP.
(L.S.) J. V. LEMOYNE.
(L.S.) B. ORERO.
(L.S.) A. BOGOLUBOW.
(L.S.) M. TAHIR.

87 PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Annexe No. 1.

COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE DE DÉLIMITATION DE LA BULGARIE.

LISTE des Iles reconnues appartenir aux Provinces Ottomanes situées sur la rive droite du Danube et à la Principauté de Valachie par le Protocole de la Commission, chargée de determiner, conformément au Traité d'Andrinople, la frontière des Principautés de Moldavie et de Valachie par le chenal de fleuve.

(Extrait.)

I.—*Aux Provinces Ottomanes situées sur la Rive Droite du Danube.*

8. Les deux Iles Salatoria.
9. L'Ilot Kotova.
10. L'Ile de Sitchan.
11. L'Ilot Tchifte No. 1.
12. „ „ No. 2.
13. L'Ile petite Iscombria.
14. „ grande „
15. L'Ilot Petrichte avec deux autres Ilots du même nom.
16. L'Ile de Mourtaza.
17. „ d'Ebich aga.
18. L'Ilot Kutchuk Ada.
19. „ Bogoti.
20. „ Isoun Ibrahim.
21. L'Ile Kodoslui.
22. „ Salanorsa.
23. „ Papadia.
24. „ Somoritza.
25. L'Ilot Taouchan.
26. L'Ile de Baktché.
27. „ Eérikoum.
28. Magaritcha.
29. Béléna ou Beskout.
30. Tchenghéné.
31. L'Ile de Sistow.
32. „ Vardim.
33. „ Kobanek.
34. „ Bourgos.
35. „ Goulla.
36. „ Maratin.
37. „ Hisarlik.
38. L'Ilot Bikirli No. 1.
39. „ „ No. 2.
40. „ „ No. 3.
41. „ „ No. 4.
42. L'Ile de Lahana dorogou No. 1.
43. „ „ „ No. 2.
44. „ de Kassou.
45. „ Alepné.
46. „ Kargalik.
47. „ Kavan.
48. „ Ridvan.

II.—*A la Principauté de Valachie.*

8. L'Ile de Ghirlo.
9. „ de Tchetaté.
10. „ Kochava avec un Ilot sans nom.
11. L'Ile Golia.
12. „ Kalafata avec deux Ilots sans nom.
13. L'Ile Kinap.
14. „ Ak Kalé.
15. „ de Lom.
16. „ de Linova.
17. „ d'Aliman.
18. „ Kopantcha.
19. L'Ilot Draktchni.
20. L'Ile de Kom ou Pentégal.
21. „ sans nom.
22. Les deux Ilots Bechlikeuy.
23. L'Ile de Chélei ou Iskra.
24. „ Islaz.
25. „ Mahalé Komou.
26. „ Kourté.
27. „ Paul (Paolo Adasi).
28. „ Bourdgina.
29. „ Louta.
30. L'Ilot Dehli Moustafa.
31. L'Ile de Ostrov Mare.
32. „ de Batoun.
33. „ d'Iéni Kama.
34. „ Geourgea No. 1.
35. „ „ No. 2.
36. „ Mokan Oolouh.
37. „ Dalian Dorogou.
38. „ Flamounda.
39. „ Güzel Dgéléré.
40. L'Ilot Kanli Bogas Adasi.
41. L'Ile de Tourtoukai.
42. „ Vitrène ou Parlipou.
43. „ Hissarli ou Kieulou Ghioumrouk (Ostrov de Sousse).

(Signé) E. B. HAMLEY.
G. W. WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

No. 419.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 614.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 26, 1879.

THE Austrian Government has received representations from the Turkish Ambassador here on the subject of the infraction of the Berlin Treaty, involved by the presence at Rustchuk of a Bulgarian flotilla, consisting of two monitors and three unarmoured craft, manned chiefly by Russian sailors, who receive high pay from the Bulgarian Government.

Baron Calice tells me that the Austrian Government is inquiring into the facts of the case; but I do not think Edhem Pasha expects them, *proprio motu*, to take any action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON

No. 420.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 616. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 27, 1879.

ON receiving a repetition of Mr. Macdonell's telegram No. 70 to your Lordship on the subject of an Italian and French understanding respecting Janina and the Turco-Grecian frontier, I made immediate inquiry whether any fresh action had been taken by either of those Governments, and was assured that such was not the case.

I learn again to-day that no representation has been made in the sense of Count Maffei's words, either by the Italian or French Governments, and that neither Count Andrassy nor Prince Bismarck had changed their position in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 421.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 617.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 27, 1879.

I ASKED Baron Calice to-day what view his Government took of the new Jew Bill of the Roumanian Government?

He answered me in much the same language as that used to Sir Henry Elliot, that Austria did not put herself in the first line in this matter.

I understand that Prince Bismarck, talking here on the Roumanian Jew question, did not express himself very strongly. Concessions, he said, to public opinion in Europe must be made by Roumania in return for the independence granted her, but my informant* told me that the Prince's language did not give him at all the impression that he was averse to any further compromise in this difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 422.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 619.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 27, 1879.

I MET the Roumanian Minister on his way to make representations on behalf of his Government against the decision of the Bulgarian Commission, on the subject of

* The French Ambassador.

certain islands of the Danube above the junction of the Pruth, which, he says, ever since the Treaty of Adrianople, have been Roumanian; the right bank of the river alone was Turkish.

The right bank of the river alone having been granted to Bulgaria by the Treaty, the Roumanian Government protest against the thalweg of the stream being made the frontier, and at having to renounce the islands in their present possession. I will report the answer of the Austrian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 423.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 621.)
Vienna, September 27, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the telegram I had the honour to receive last night from your Lordship repeating one from General Hamley, Baron Calice did not appear to have heard of the decision of the majority of the Commission with regard to the military road in the Sandjak of Sophia, and could not give me any opinion upon the matter excepting that the Turkish right to the road was undoubted. He said the Austrian Commissioner had applied for leave, which he thought would be granted, though he might be required later at Arab-Tabia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 424.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 29, 1879.

AUSTRIAN Government have been asked by Russian Government to send Technical Commissioner to Silistria Bridge Commision; date fixed the 27th October. Count Andrassy proposes to send military engineer officer, to which Russian Chargé d'Affaires raised no objection.

No. 425.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 29, 1879.

FRENCH Ambassador has communicated to Austrian Government instructions to French Ambassador at Constantinople respecting Turkish and Greek frontier difficulty, advising acceptance as point of departure of negotiations of the indications given in Protocol 13. Count Andrassy sees no reason to disapprove this step.

No. 426.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 670.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 29, 1879.

I SENT following to Sir H. Layard, dated 25th instant:—

"Calvert informs me that Turkish officers generally have been appointed, who are to be the Chiefs of first class Inspectors, of whom Calvert is one.

"He believes that this was not contemplated by your Excellency, and suggests that it reduces his position to one which, under present circumstances, is unadvisable for a British Vice-Consul to hold in Asia Minor.

"So far as he can ascertain, it will be no part of his duty to draw up an independent Report.

"He is ordered to join within two or three days, but intends to refrain until receiving further instructions from your Excellency."

No. 427.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 671.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 29, 1879.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 670, I have received following telegram from Sir H. Layard, dated 27th:—

"If Calvert cannot act with independence, it appears to me that it would not be desirable for him to accept appointment, which would be of no real service to the Porte's revenue. Pray tell Safvet Pasha this."

No. 428.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 672.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 29, 1879.

I HAVE received following figures from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, dated 26th:—

"Insurrection spreading. Persian Kurds crossed frontier in boats; number over 4,000 insurgents, with the Sheikh. Authorities have asked Porte to send reinforcements to check movements of Persian Kurds.

"What answer to despatch No. 70?"

No. 429.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 673.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 29, 1879.

ABEDIN, at present Commissioner for the district of Diarbekir, is appointed Vali of Siwas. He has displayed considerable energy as Commissioner.

Kaïmakam of Jeddah has been dismissed.

No. 430.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 674.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 29, 1879.

AT the instance of Council of Ministers, Safvet Pasha asks whether Her Majesty's Government would be willing that Egypt should pay tribute for Somali coast as does at present for Zeila.

It is not proposed to exact anything now, but later, if the country yields a revenue, Council is of opinion that the surplus should be exacted as a tribute.

I said that I trusted that the issue of Firman in no way depended on answer of Her Majesty's Government, as its urgency was great.

His Highness replied that the Firman was quite a separate affair, but to obtain an answer could not take long, and he asked me to telegraph immediately.

Payment of tribute would be a confirmation of sovereignty of Porte.

No. 431.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30, 12·15 P.M.)

(No. 48.) *Tehran, September* 30, 1879, 2 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

IT is reported from Asterabad that General Tergukasow, with seven fresh battalions from the Caucasus, had arrived at Chekishler.

Mr. Churchill has reported a land-slip over one of the Russian camps, with loss of 600 men, the number given being doubtless from a Turkoman source.

He also telegraphs this morning rumoured further severe reverses to the Russian force beyond Karee Kala, of which, however, there is as yet no confirmation here.

(Communicated to the Viceroy.)

No. 432.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Morier.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1879, 4·30 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 12th instant, the India Office have received a telegram from the Governor of Bombay stating that the instructions sent to him respecting the Goa Treaty will be carefully executed.

No. 433.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 242.) *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1879, 5·35 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

ARE we at liberty to publish the Kaufmann letters if it seems desirable?

No. 434.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1879, 6·30 P.M.

FOR your own information, I must slightly correct the statement of Greek Chargé d'Affaires.

I told M. Waddington that we thought the cession highly inexpedient, and much regretted the contrary view taken by Germany and France, but that we should leave the matter to the Sultan's own decision, with which we should not be disposed in any case to interfere. It is not, however, desirable that you should make any communication to the King at present upon the matter.

No. 435.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. R. Thomson.

(No. 12.) *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1879, 6·45 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

YOURS No. 47.

You may now authorize British Consul at Asterabad to protect Turkish subjects in that province.

No. 436.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 85. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1879.

Sir,

IT is stated in your telegram of the 27th instant that the Greek Government had received information from their Chargé d'Affaires in Paris to the effect that in an interview

with M. Waddington I had said that Her Majesty's Government would not oppose the annexation of Janina to Greece, but that they would not recommend it to the Porte.

This version of what passed between M. Waddington and myself is not fully accurate, and I think it right that you should be in possession, for your own information, of what was really said, though it is not necessary that for the present you should make any communication to the King upon the matter.

I told M. Waddington that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it was highly inexpedient that Turkey should be called upon to cede Janina to Greece, and that they greatly regretted that a contrary view was held by the Governments of France and Germany. They would not, however, I added, be disposed to interfere in opposition to any decision at which the Sultan might arrive upon the question.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.